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ROSE GUNS DAYS
Season 1
4

ROSE GUNS DAYS

Contents

003 ····· Scene : 15

045 ····· Scene : 16

086 ····· Scene : 17

125 ····· Scene : 18

165 ····· Scene : 19

Scene: 15

KUKU
KUKU
LIKE AN OVER-INFLATED BALLOON.
IT'S LED TO ENMITY NOT ONLY FROM THE CITIZENRY, BUT ALSO THE OFFICERS OF HIS OWN ORGANIZATION.
AS WE EXPECTED, THEY CAUSED QUITE A STIR GATHERING THE ONE HUNDRED MILLION.
...YES, WE CAN MANAGE IT NOW.
PASH! CJABO
AND IF WE GIVE CALEB A LITTLE POKE...
...GOES POP.
...THE WHOLE THING...
HEY, WAYNE.

YOU...YOU'RE ACTUALLY A SCAREDY-CAT, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT ...!?
LIKE HELL I AM! I-I'M NO SC—
DON'T GET UPSET. YOU JUST TEND TO MASK YOUR FEAR WITH PASSION.
.....
TO BE STRONG, YOU NEED THREE THINGS— SKILLS, STAMINA, AND HEART.
HEART ...?
IT'S A WASTE TO USE THAT PRECIOUS FUEL, THAT HEART, ON MEANINGLESS EMOTIONS.
KEEP IT WARMING INSIDE YOUR CHEST FOR TIMES YOU REALLY NEED TO BURN.
THINK OF "HEART" AS THE GASOLINE FOR YOUR ENGINE.
THE MORE FUEL YOU'VE GOT, THE LONGER YOU CAN KEEP GOING.
IF YOU CAN MANAGE THAT...
PAGA (FLAP)

YOU'LL BE A STRONG AND NOBLE WOLF.
...YOU CAN FORGET BEING A DOG.

BASHA (SPLASH)
HEY, WAKE UP, KID.

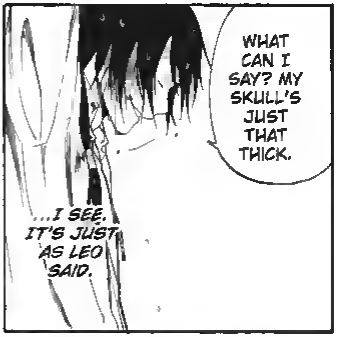
.....
YOU TRY SO HARD, WAYNE-KUN.

DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE YOU WANT TO START WHINING NOW?

KOFF!
KOFF!
GARAN (CLATTER)
KOFF!

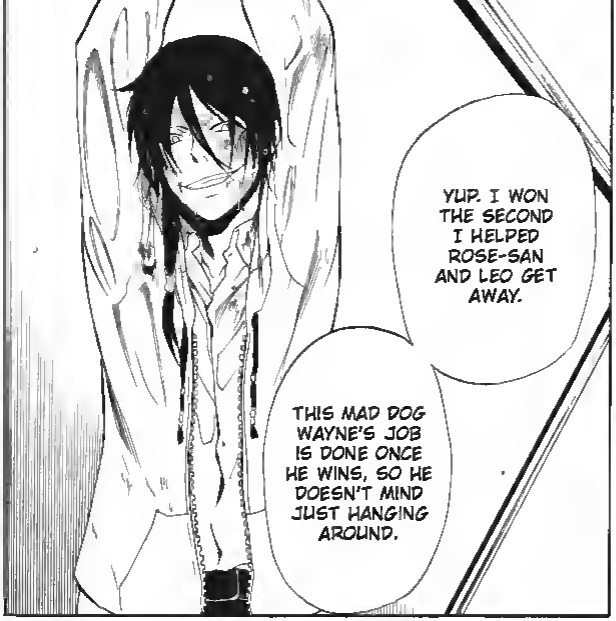
...HEH... I'M ROSE-SAN'S BODY-GUARD.
FORGET ABOUT HER SAFEHOUSE. I AIN'T SAYING NOTHING YOU COULD USE TO HURT HER.
EVEN IF THAT'S THE ONLY THING KEEPING YOU ALIVE?
DOESN'T THAT GET THROUGH THAT THICK SKULL OF YOURS?

SO THEY'RE KEEPING ME ALIVE, HOPING TO GET INFO OUTTA ME...
IT'S ALL CLEAR WHEN I KEEP COOL.
THESE GUYS ARE STUMPED. THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE ROSE IS.


WHAT CAN I SAY? MY SKULL'S JUST THAT THICK.
...I SEE. IT'S JUST AS LEO SAID.

...HOPEFULLY ROSE-SAN AND THE OTHERS CAN FIGURE SOMETHING OUT IN THE MEAN-TIME...

WHATEVER YOU SAY. I'M STILL WINNING.
YOUR LIFE HAS LITTLE VALUE TO US.
...WELL, CLAUDIA ALONE IS PLENTY TO DRAW ROSE OUT OF HIDING.
KA (STEP)
KA


YUP. I WON THE SECOND I HELPED ROSE-SAN AND LEO GET AWAY.
THIS MAD DOG WAYNE'S JOB IS DONE ONCE HE WINS, SO HE DOESN'T MIND JUST HANGING AROUND.

...WINNING?

...SO YOU DON'T FEAR DEATH?

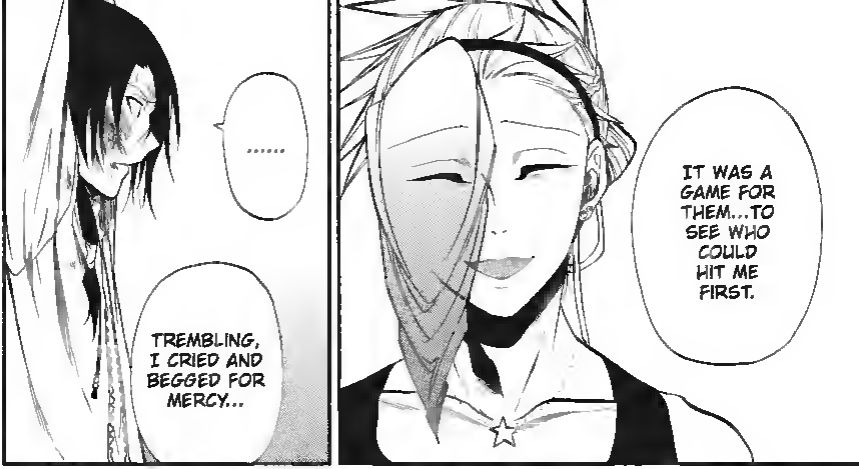
HMM ...?
I SEEM TO REMEMBER YOU COWERING AT GUNPOINT NOT TOO LONG AGO?
HEH. THIS WHIPPED DOG'S MOVING UP.

HA... 'COURSE I DON'T FEEL LIKE DYING. SAME AS ANYONE...
I MEAN, I BARELY SURVIVED FOR YEARS ON THE STREETS...

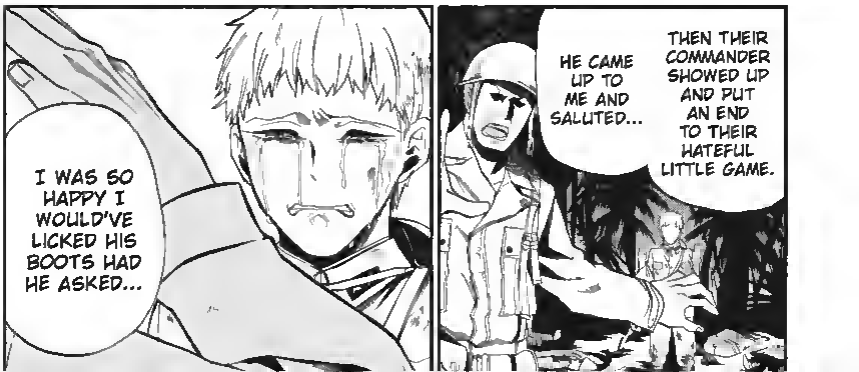
I'D WHINE AND BLUFF LIKE A USELESS LITTLE SHIT.
LIKE YOU SAID, I USED TO BE SCARED OF DYING.
BUT I'M DIFFERENT NOW. IF TURNING COWARD MEANS HURTING SOMEONE I CARE ABOUT...
...THEN I'D RATHER DIE PROTECTING THEM. I KNOW THAT NOW.
...IS HIDING FEAR BEHIND ANGER REALLY SUCH A BAD THING?
THAT TOO IS A WAY OF MOVING FORWARD. AND IT'S NATURAL ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.
...IF LEO HADN'T SHOWN UP BACK THEN...
...YOU MIGHT'VE SUPPRESSED YOUR FEAR WITH RAGE AND COME AT ME, RIGHT?
HA... MAYBE.

YOU MAY BE A MAN I CAN ACTUALLY RESPECT.
HUH ...?
...I...
...COULDN'T EVEN DO THAT MUCH...
.....?
THE HELLISH BATTLEFIELD I FOUND MYSELF ON WAS AS BAD AS COULD BE.
THE AMERICANS HAD A WEALTH OF PROVISIONS WHILE OUR SUPPLY LINE WAS CUT. WE WERE WITHOUT AMMO OR FOOD...
...WE SOLDIERS WENT OFF TO DIE ON THE BATTLEFIELD FOR OUR COUNTRY.
WE THOUGHT IT WAS WORTH THROWING OUR LIVES AWAY FOR... WE BELIEVED THAT...

...OR GO OUT BLAZING IN ONE FINAL ASSAULT. THOSE WERE THE OPTIONS.
WE COULD END OUR STARVATION WITH A SWIFTER DEATH...
...WAS NOT AN OPTION GIVEN TO US...
SURRENDER ...
...AND WE WERE GREETED WITH A STORM OF AMERICAN BULLETS...
SO WE CARRIED OUT AN ASSAULT ONE NIGHT.
LIKE A SHOOTING GALLERY AT THE FAIR...
ALL WHILE THE AMERICANS KEPT FIRING, LAUGHING AS THEY DID...
...I FOUND MYSELF SURROUNDED BY MY BROTHERS' CORPSES, DRENCHED IN MUD, AND PALE WITH FEAR.
..... BEFORE I KNEW IT...


.....
TREMBLING, I CRIED AND BEGGED FOR MERCY...
IT WAS A GAME FOR THEM...TO SEE WHO COULD HIT ME FIRST.

I FORSOOK MY DUTY, MY IDEALS. THREW OUT EVERY PLATITUDE I COULD THINK OF...
I'D HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO KEEP ON LIVING.
BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW BRAVE I WANTED TO BE, I DIDN'T WANT TO DIE...


I WAS SO HAPPY I WOULD'VE LICKED HIS BOOTS HAD HE ASKED...
HE CAME UP TO ME AND SALUTED...
THEN THEIR COMMANDER SHOWED UP AND PUT AN END TO THEIR HATEFUL LITTLE GAME.

THEY BROUGHT OVER ANOTHER P.O.W. WHO WAS WOUNDED IN THE SHOULDER ...
THE COMMANDER ALSO SALUTED HIM AND OFFERED A HAND...
...BUT HE LUNGED AT THE COMMANDER.
LONG LIVE JAPAN!!
HE'D HAD A GRENADE HIDDEN IN HIS ARMPIT.
AND A SECOND LATER...
...THEIR TOP HALVES WERE BLOWN CLEAN AWAY...

THEN THERE WAS ME— PITIFULLY SURRENDERING AND CLINGING TO LIFE. OH, DID THEY LOOK DOWN ON ME FOR THAT...
MY EXISTENCE WAS ALL BUT WORTHLESS. I WAS THE LOWEST OF THE LOW...
HE WAS A LOT LIKE YOU. THEY CAPTURED HIS BODY, BUT NOT HIS SOUL.
HE BRAVELY GAVE HIS LIFE FOR SOME SMALL REVENGE ON THE ENEMY.
...FROM THAT DAY ON, THEY SHOWED ME THE GATES OF HELL, TIME AND TIME AGAIN...
YOU...
EVERY DAY...
EVERY DAY...

I'D BE ON THE VERGE OF DEATH, AND THEY'D BRING ME BACK.
I COULDN'T EVEN MOVE A FINGER, BUT MY DAMN BODY JUST KEPT BREATHING ...
IT'S A MYSTERY EVEN TO ME HOW I'M STILL WHOLE TODAY...
THEY MADE ME REGRET IT ALL...
THAT I WASN'T ALLOWED TO DIE...
THAT I WAS EVER BORN ...
HA...
AH HA...
FU-FU ...
AAH HA HA ...!!

BUT... CALEB CAME TO SAVE ME...
JUST AS I WAS SCRAPING AWAY MY NAILS ...
...DIGGING MY OWN GRAVE...
U.S
COME ON.

STAY WITH ME!
YOU AIN'T GONNA DIE.
YOU CAN'T DIE NOW...!!

DON'T CRY, NOW.
MEETING HIM CREATED A NEW LEASE ON LIFE FOR ME...
CAN'T HAVE YOU WASTING PRECIOUS WATER.
PUTTING YOUR LIFE IN THE ENEMY'S HANDS...
GYU (TENSE)
... SUBMIT-TING.
..... SURREN-DERING MEANS .....

ONLY THOSE WHO FIGHT TO THE DEATH ARE TRULY PURE...
THOSE WHO GIVE UP ARE BRANDED WITH THAT DISHONOR FROM HERE TO THE DEEPEST PITS OF HELL...!!
SO THOSE WHO'VE SUR-RENDERED HAVE NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT BEING KILLED...
NO MATTER WHAT...
I'LL NEVER SURREN-DER TO ANYONE AGAIN ...!!
NEVER ...
THAT'S WHY I'LL NEVER...
NEVER AGAIN!!

KA (STEP)
HAA...
HAA...
.....
TON
...MIGUEL-SAN, PLEASE CALM YOURSELF...
I'M FINE...
TON
TON (TAP)
...I'M... FINE...
SHAKA (KACHAK)
YOU ARE PURE... I'M SORRY I SHAMED YOU WITH THAT TORTURE...
HMPH ...

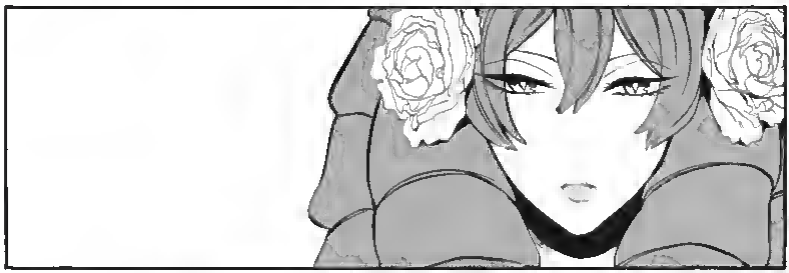
I WON'T DISGRACE YOU ANYMORE. I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU A CLEAN DEATH.
.....
...BUT, SORRY.
CHA (CHAK)

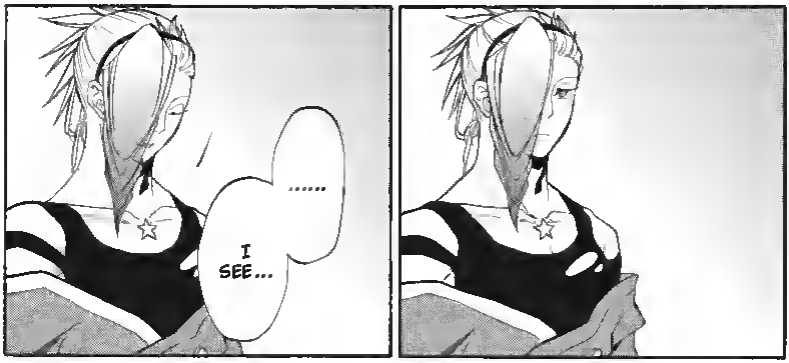
HEY, YOU.
BRING OUT THE OTHER HOSTAGE. THE GIRL.

I'LL TORTURE HER IN FRONT OF YOU.
IF YOU STILL WON'T TALK, THAT'S FINE. I'LL THINK OF ANOTHER WAY.
DAMN YOU...

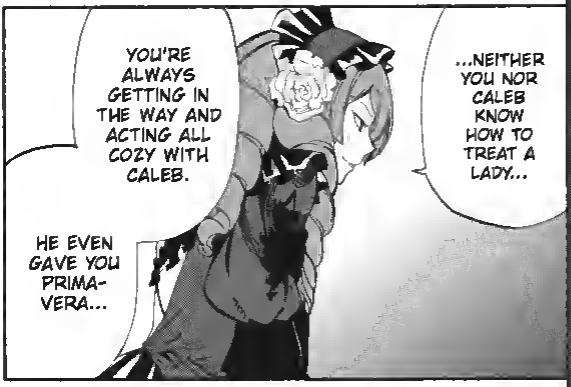
KATSUN (CUTE)
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.
?
GARA (SLIDE)
JUST AS YOU STAND BY ROSE...
...I STAND BY CALEB.

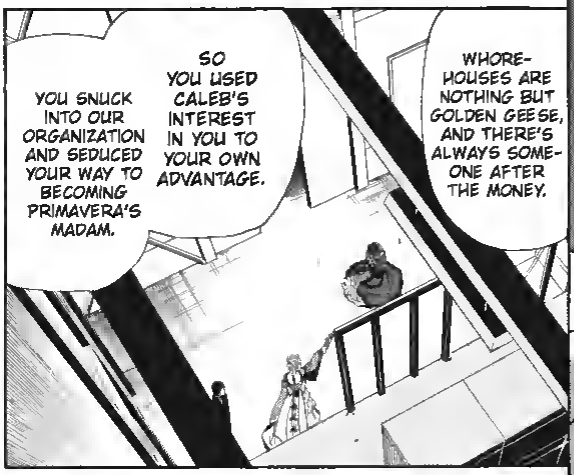
HUH? WHY'S THAT?
FATHER GAVE ME PERMISSION. WOULD YOU PRESUME TO DISOBEY HIM?
MONITORING THE HOSTAGES IS MY JOB.
CLAUDIA HAS ALREADY BEEN MOVED, AND I'LL BE TAKING WAYNE AS WELL.

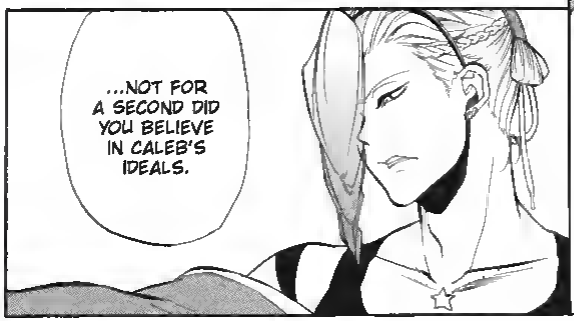



.....
I SEE...

BAN (BANG)
M-MIGUEL-SAN...!
UGH...
...THEY'RE ALL LIKE THIS.


YOU'RE ALWAYS GETTING IN THE WAY AND ACTING ALL COZY WITH CALEB.
HE EVEN GAVE YOU PRIMA-VERA...
...NEITHER YOU NOR CALEB KNOW HOW TO TREAT A LADY...

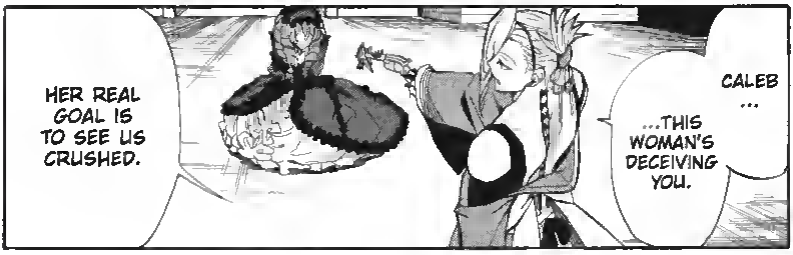

YOU SNUCK INTO OUR ORGANIZATION AND SEDUCED YOUR WAY TO BECOMING PRIMAVERA'S MADAM.
SO YOU USED CALEB'S INTEREST IN YOU TO YOUR OWN ADVANTAGE.
WHORE-HOUSES ARE NOTHING BUT GOLDEN GEESE, AND THERE'S ALWAYS SOME-ONE AFTER THE MONEY.


...NOT FOR A SECOND DID YOU BELIEVE IN CALEB'S IDEALS.

THERE'S JUST...
...NO TRUSTING WOMEN.

.....
YOU'RE JUST USING HIM TO PROTECT PRIMAVERA.
AREN'T YOU DOING THE SAME THING?
DON'T YOU DARE LUMP US WITH DISGUSTING TRAITORS LIKE YOURSELF.
HOPING OUR PESKY GANG WOULD BE TAKEN DOWN IN THE END.
YOU'RE PROBABLY IN BED WITH THE AMERICANS.
THAT'S YOUR SPECIALTY, ISN'T IT?
GUYS. SEIZE THIS WOMAN.
I'D KILL YOU RIGHT NOW, BUT THAT'S ULTIMATELY UP TO CALEB.
WHAT AN AWFUL THING TO SAY... DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF?
NO NEED. I KNOW A WOMAN'S LIE WHEN I HEAR IT. MONITORING THE HOSTAGES? YOU'RE HOPING TO HELP THEM ESCAPE.

...I JUST THOUGHT I'D STOP BY TO MAKE SURE YOU WEREN'T KILLING OUR HOSTAGES...
...SO WHAT'S ...
...THE MEANING OF THIS...?


CALEB ...
...THIS WOMAN'S DECEIVING YOU.
HER REAL GOAL IS TO SEE US CRUSHED.

GASH! (RUB)
GASH
.....
...WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU ON ABOUT ...?
WHERE'S YOUR PROOF?
JUST INTUITION.
...SO THAT'S IT, THEN...
YOU'RE USUALLY RIGHT ABOUT THESE THINGS.
...WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY, AMANDA?
LET ME HEAR YOUR SIDE OF IT.
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T TRUST ME? THAT HURTS.
I ADMIT I JUST CAN'T READ WOMEN THAT WELL.
SHE JUST TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YOUR KINDNESS. SHE'S USING YOU.
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN TRUST HER.
U-FU-FU-FU-FU...
HOW FUNNY THAT YOU'RE THE ONE SAYING THAT.

...DON'T YOU DARE QUESTION MY LOYALTY TO CALEB.....!!
BUT .....
GA (SNARE)
JUST THINK... HOW MANY DEALS HAVE BEEN RUINED ON YOUR ACCOUNT?
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT HIS IDEALS.
I KNOW... I'VE MESSED UP BEFORE...
.....
CALEB ...
GOOD WORK, MIGUEL. LEAVE THE REST TO ME.
YOU'RE ALWAYS READY TO ACT ON MY BEHALF. YOU'D NEVER TURN ON ME.
...THAT'S RIGHT.

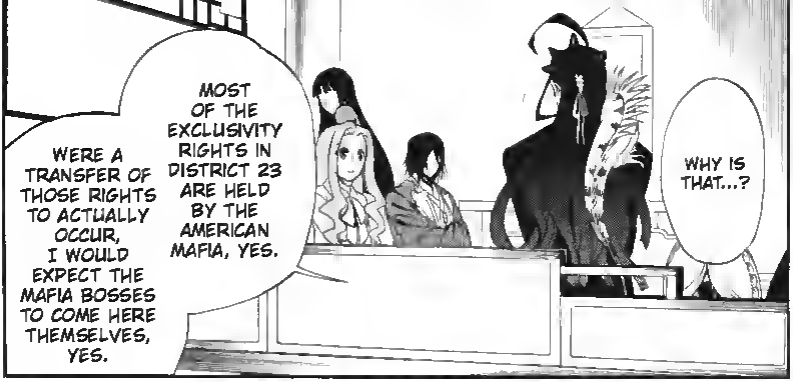
I DON'T NEED YOU ANY LONGER.
AMANDA, YOU'RE GOING TOO.
OF COURSE.
YOU TWO. WE'RE MOVING THE KID.
RIGHT
S-SURE THING.

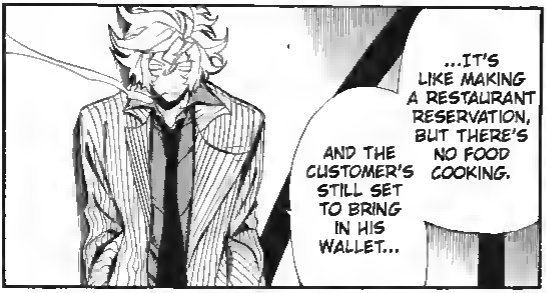
YOU HURT?
.....
BUT... WHY...
I'M FINE. JUST A SCRATCH.
..TCH.
WHY!?
I DON'T GET IT, CALEB! WHY DON'T YOU TRUST ME!?
WHY ...!?
WHY, WHY, WHY!?
...I DO TRUST YOU.

...UHH...
B-BUT, BUT...
THAT WOMAN, SHE...
BIKU (JOLT)
...I CANNOT RECOGNIZE AS AN ALLY OF MINE SOMEONE WHO DOUBTS AND MIGHT ULTIMATELY HURT A COMRADE.
THAT'S WHY...
YOU WON'T TURN ON ME, RIGHT?
YOUR LOYALTY TO ME IS ABSOLUTE ...?
GAN (CHATTER)

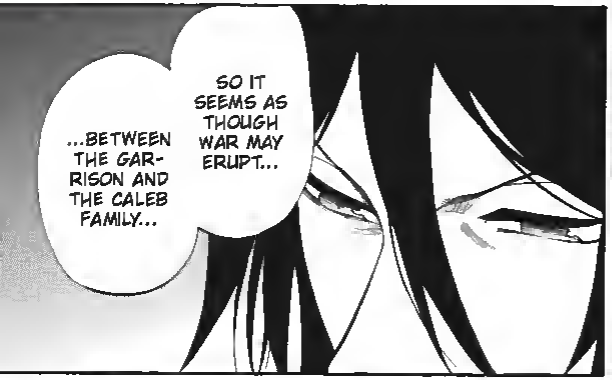
(TMI)
.....
IF EITHER OF YOU HAS A PROBLEM WITH HOW I DO THINGS, FEEL FREE TO LEAVE.

...HOWEVER, THE DEAL MAY NOT BE COMPLETED, YES.
SO TODAY IS THE DAY THAT CALEB WILL HAND THE MONEY OVER TO THE GARRISON...


WERE A TRANSFER OF THOSE RIGHTS TO ACTUALLY OCCUR, I WOULD EXPECT THE MAFIA BOSSES TO COME HERE THEMSELVES, YES.
MOST OF THE EXCLUSIVITY RIGHTS IN DISTRICT 23 ARE HELD BY THE AMERICAN MAFIA, YES.
WHY IS THAT...?


...IT'S LIKE MAKING A RESTAURANT RESERVATION, BUT THERE'S NO FOOD COOKING.
AND THE CUSTOMER'S STILL SET TO BRING IN HIS WALLET...

YET, NEWS OF SUCH VISITORS HAS NOT REACHED MY EARS, YES.
THIS DEAL INVOLVES MOVING A TON OF CASH, RIGHT? THERE SHOULD BE SOME BUZZ GOING ON


SO IT SEEMS AS THOUGH WAR MAY ERUPT...
...BETWEEN THE GARRISON AND THE CALEB FAMILY...

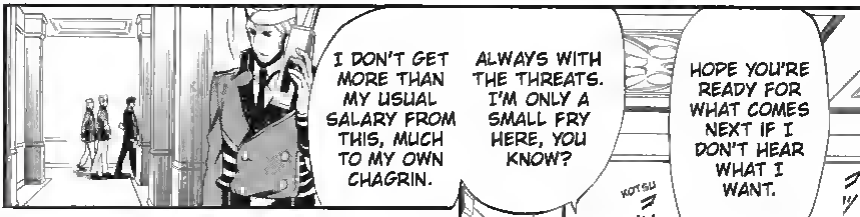
NAH.
THEY CAN'T WIN, BUT THEY MIGHT END WITH A STALEMATE.
THEY CAN'T WIN AGAINST THE AMERICAN MILITARY.
THAT'S...

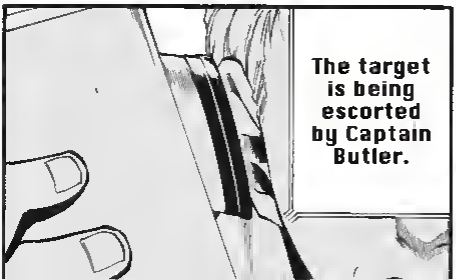
IF THE AMERICANS ARE ACTUALLY FORCED TO TAKE ACTION...
...A GOOD NUMBER OF OFFICERS' HEADS WILL ROLL AT THE GARRISON HQ.
IT'S CALEB WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. HE'S NOT AFRAID TO DIE, SO WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'LL DO?
KON (CLUNK)
...THE SKIES ARE DARK.
IT SEEMS IT WILL RAIN, YES...
...WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, CALEB?
KON
KON

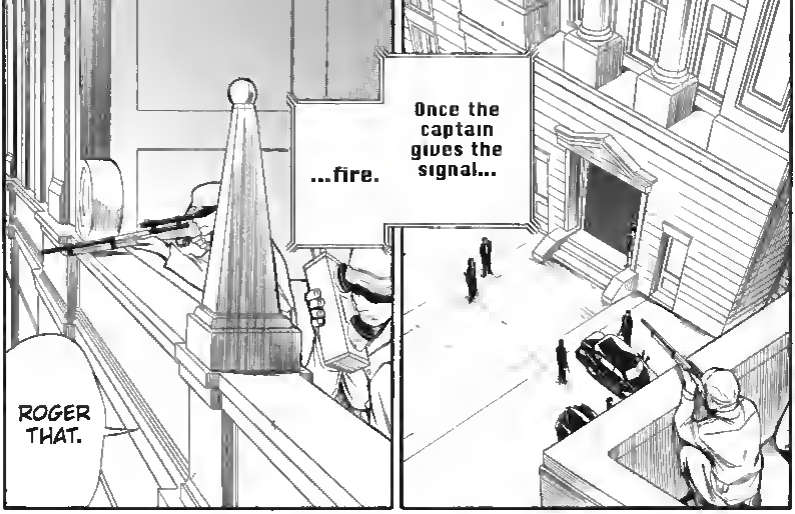
NAH. JUST FIFTY MILLION.
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET TODAY.
DIDN'T WE AGREE ON ONE HUNDRED MILLION...?
THE REST COMES ONCE YOU START COOPERATING.
THAT IS, ONCE YOU HAND OVER THE EXCLUSIVITY RIGHTS.
IF IT'S A MATTER OF PROVING WE GOT THE MONEY, I'M HAPPY TO SHOW IT TO YOU AND ONLY YOU.
BUT YOU'D HAVE TO COME BLIND-FOLDED.
YE OF LITTLE FAITH...

WE'RE EQUALS HERE.
SO STOP LOOKING DOWN ON THE JAPANESE.

I SUPPOSE WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO MOVE AHEAD WITH ONLY HALF THE MONEY.
MY SUPERIORS ARE WORKING OUT THE FINAL DETAILS WITH THE MOB BACK IN AMERICA.
KOTSU
KOTSU
KOTSU (STEP)


I DON'T GET MORE THAN MY USUAL SALARY FROM THIS, MUCH TO MY OWN CHAGRIN.
ALWAYS WITH THE THREATS. I'M ONLY A SMALL FRY HERE, YOU KNOW?
HOPE YOU'RE READY FOR WHAT COMES NEXT IF I DON'T HEAR WHAT I WANT.
KOTSU
KOTSU
KOTSU


The target is being escorted by Captain Butler.


ROGER THAT.
...fire.
Once the captain gives the signal...

KOTSU
PERHAPS WE CAN EVEN BE FRIENDS, THEN?
KOTSU
YOU'LL HAVE MY ETERNAL GRATITUDE IF THIS DEAL GOES AS PLANNED.

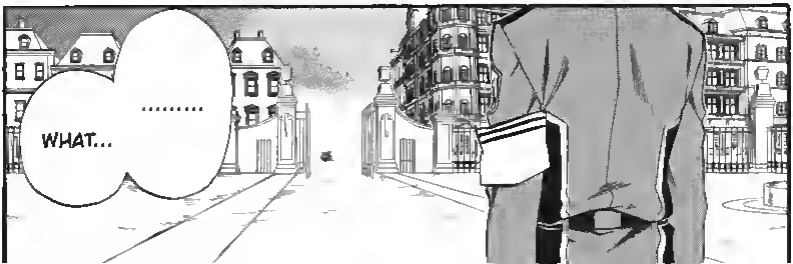
EH HEH HEH.
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
SURE THING. I'LL TREAT YOU TO SOME GOOD SAKE.

GUH ...
AH...
TAN (SANG)

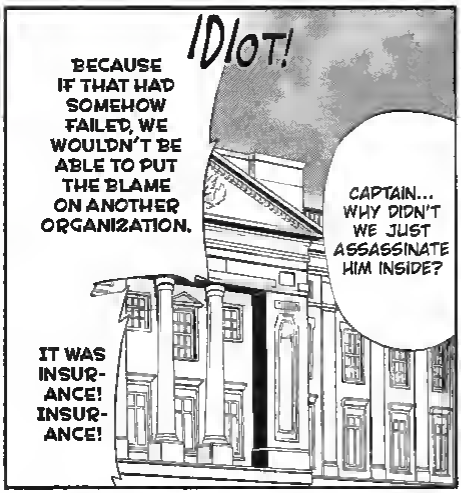
GA GLAND
GA
GA
GA
GA
CAPTAIN! GET INSIDE, QUICKLY!
SHIT WHERE ARE THESE SHOTS COMING FROM!?
FATHER!!
QUICK, GET THE LEAD OUT!!
FARE-WELL, BUTLER.
I'LL WAIT FOR YOUR CALL.
...GET IN THE CAR, YOU IDIOTS! IT'S A SNIPER!

SUDO (SHARED)
ARE YOU OKAY, FATHER...?
TCH... NOTHING MAJOR.
JIWA (CACHED)
...EH HEH HEH...

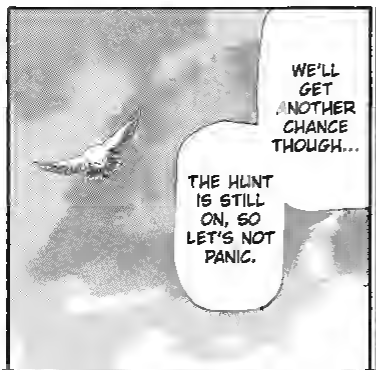
THIS PAWN'S NOT GOING DOWN YET.
IT'S NOT MY TIME...!


.....
WHAT...

AND WHY DIDN'T THE MACHINE GUN TEAM SHOW UP!?
WHAT THE FUCK WAS THAT? WHY'D THEY SHOOT BEFORE I GAVE THE SIGNAL!?
THIS IS A MASSIVE FAILURE!


IDIOT!
BECAUSE IF THAT HAD SOMEHOW FAILED, WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PUT THE BLAME ON ANOTHER ORGANIZATION.
CAPTAIN... WHY DIDN'T WE JUST ASSASSINATE HIM INSIDE?
IT WAS INSUR-ANCE! INSUR-ANCE!

TH-THE MILITARY POLICE AT THE GATES DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION PLAN, SO THEY WOULDN'T ADMIT ANY SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES...
GAHH.
NOBODY AROUND HERE KNOWS HOW TO ADAPT!

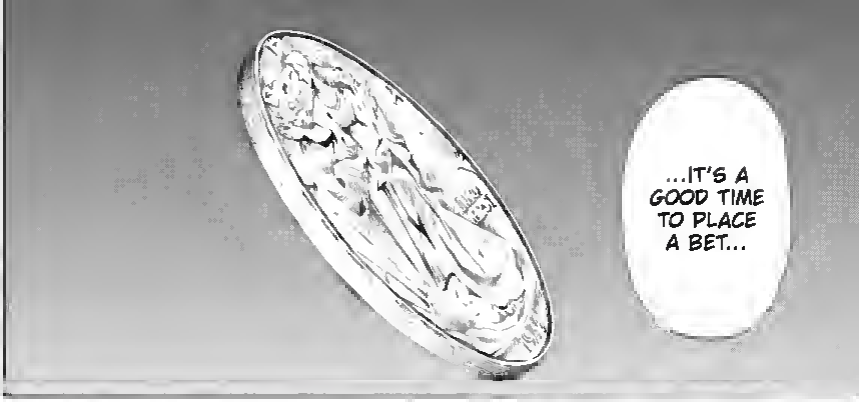

WE'LL GET ANOTHER CHANCE THOUGH...
THE HUNT IS STILL ON, SO LET'S NOT PANIC.

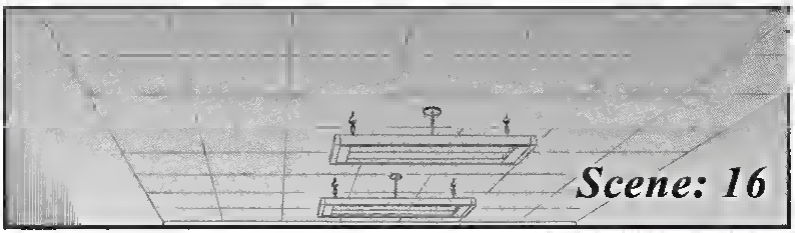
NO SUCH THING AS TOO MUCH INSURANCE
GLAD IT WASN'T INSIDE THOUGH
SHIT...
I JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T REALIZE IT WAS US...

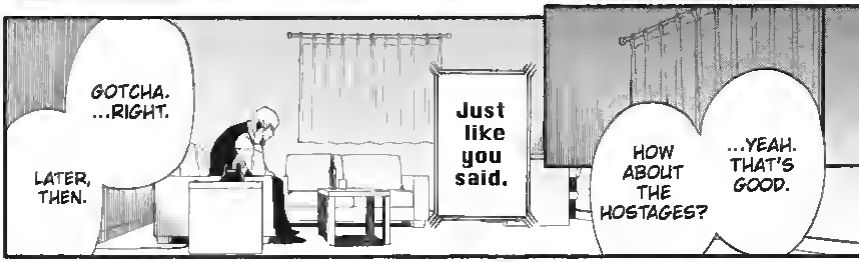
...COMING UP NEXT
...CHAPTER 7 —

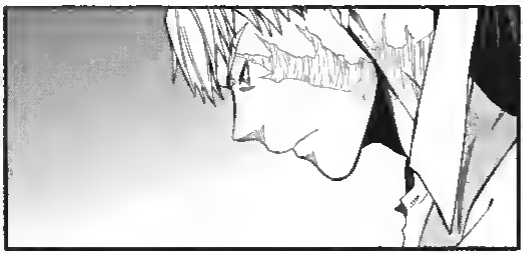
SO THIS HAPPENED...
LET'S SEE WHAT'S WRONG THIS MONTH.
PARARI (FLIP)
1P
JOKER SAMA
I GET A SAMPLE COPY OF THE MAGAZINE EACH MONTH TO CHECK FOR MISPRINTS.
I'VE GOT SLOPPY HANDWRITING, WHICH RESULTS IN A REALLY HIGH NUMBER OF ERRORS. IT ALWAYS PUTS ME ON EDGE.
SO THEN I WENT TO CHECK MY ORIGINAL MANU-SCRIPT.
HAWK!?! WHAT!? I DOUBLE-CHECKED BECAUSE THE KANJI LOOK ALIKE, BUT IT STILL TURNED OUT WRONG!?
この鷹の目からな…
THIS TIME IT WAS IN SCENE 15.
TEXT. NOT FROM THESE HAWK EYES
COLO-NEL!! (EDI-TOR-SAMA) !!
ON CLOSER INSPECTION, THEY ALSO WROTE IT AS "HAWK" IN THE INTRO TEXT ON THE TITLE PAGE.
この鷲の目からな…
AH-HA! I DID WRITE IT AS "EAGLE" AFTER ALL!
↑THIS IS A PICTURE
IF NOT FOR LEE-SAN MOCKING BUTLER IN THE NEXT CHAPTER, WHICH WAS ALREADY FINISHED AT THIS POINT, THIS SHAME WOULD HAVE CONTINUED TILL VOLUME FOUR ITSELF GOT PUBLISHED.
I PROBABLY ENDED UP COPYING ONE OF THE HAWK IMAGES THAT CAME UP WHEN I SEARCHED "EAGLE"
HP AT 0 THIS MONTH TOO
BUT I CLEARLY DREW A HAWK ON THE TITLE PAGE, SO WE BOTH SHARED IN THE BLAME.
I'M SO SORRY.
I'M SO VERY GRATEFUL TO LEE-SAN.

Chapter 7
ASHI (CATCH)
...YOU REALLY GONNA DO IT, JAMES?
PIN (PING)
WOULD YOU STAY IN THAT CASE?
IN THIS SINKING SHIP OF A TOWN?
PIN (PING)
CAN YOU BET YOUR DAMN LIFE ON THE HOPE...
...THAT A BOAT WITH A CRACKED KEEL'S GONNA SAIL AGAIN?
PIN
'COS THE TIDE'S LOOKING JUST RIGHT.
...OR RATHER...
PASHI
.....


...IT'S A GOOD TIME TO PLACE A BET...


Scene: 16


GOTCHA. ...RIGHT.
LATER, THEN.
Just like you said.
HOW ABOUT THE HOSTAGES?
...YEAH. THAT'S GOOD.



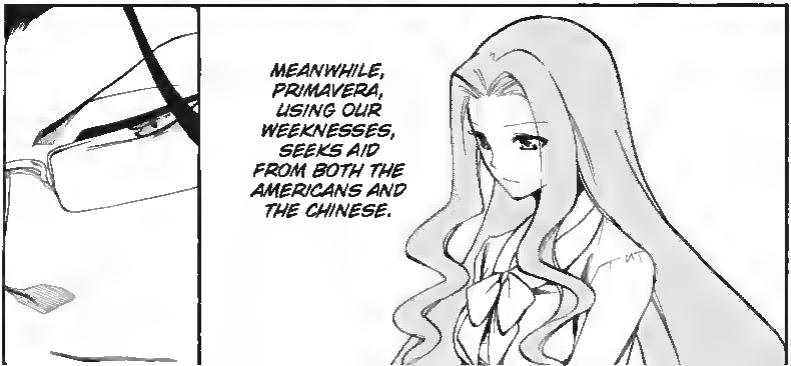
CHIN (CHING)

NOT LONG NOW...
NOT FROM THESE EAGLE EYES...
DON'T THINK HE CAN GET AWAY.
FUJIN CHANPO
THE PUBLIC ORDER OFFICIALS AT YOUR GARRISON WOULD BE SHOCKED TO HEAR THAT, YES.
SIGH.
YOU MUST BE QUITE CONFIDENT TO SPOUT LINES LIKE THAT, YES.
I'D HEARD THAT BLACK DRAGON LEE HAD NO SENSE OF HUMOR, BUT REALLY...
EH HEH HEH...
THE FELLOW ON YOUR SHOULDER LOOKS MAD...
Y-YOU AND YOUR UNFUNNY CHINESE JOKES...
I HAVE HALF A MIND TO BELIEVE IT WAS SOMEHOW THE DOING OF YOUR RATS.
SADLY, OUR SNIPER TEAM DIDN'T SHOOT A SINGLE BULLET.
...
NO ONE HAS SEEN CALEB SINCE THAT DAY. FINDING HIM WILL BE A CHORE ON ITS OWN, YES.

...BUT FOR PRIMAVERA ITSELF TO SUGGEST A MEETING BETWEEN US AND THE GOLDEN DRAGONS...
WE CHOOSE OUR PERSONNEL CAREFULLY. THERE WERE NO LEAKS.
NO RATS OF MINE, NO.
BUT SOME OTHER ORGANIZATION MAY HAVE LEARNED OF YOUR PLAN AND INSERTED ITSELF, YES.

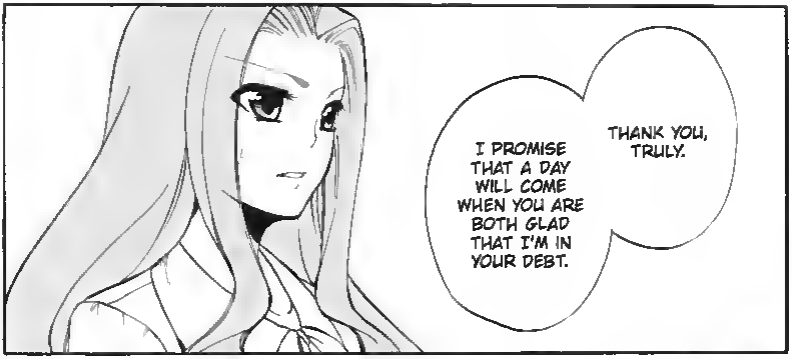
BUT THE FIRST IN LINE TO CONTROL THE UNDER-WORLD ONCE CALEB IS GONE IS PRIMAVERA ...
TO PREPARE FOR THAT TIME, WE BOTH WANT PRIMAVERA TO OWE US SOMETHING TO GET THE UPPER HAND...
AND WE DESPERATELY REQUIRE A PIPELINE TO THE GARRISON FOR WHEN WE INEVITABLY TAKE OVER DISTRICT 23...

NEITHER THE AMERICANS NOR THE DRAGONS CAN AFFORD TO DIRECTLY ENGAGE WITH CALEB...
SO WE BOTH WAGED WAR BY PROXY ON ROSE'S BACK...


MEANWHILE, PRIMAVERA, USING OUR WEEKNESSES, SEEKS AID FROM BOTH THE AMERICANS AND THE CHINESE.

YAWN
DID HE FORESEE THAT MUCH, AND FEED ROSE FROM THE TREE OF WISDOM...?
I KNOW QUITE WELL HOW SELFISH A THING THIS IS TO ASK, BUT...
...IF WE ARE TO PROTECT THIS SOCIETY FOR OUR COUNTRYMEN, WE REQUIRE HELP FROM BOTH OF YOU.
WE'RE WELL AWARE.
THE TRUTH IS, ROSE-CHAN, I'VE PREPARED PROPER LODGING FOR YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE.
PIKU (TWITCH)
THIS HAS ALL GOTTEN OUT OF HAND THANKS TO MY CARELESSNESS.
LODGING ...?
A GUEST HOUSE NORMALLY RESERVED FOR HIGH OFFICIALS FROM THE STATES.

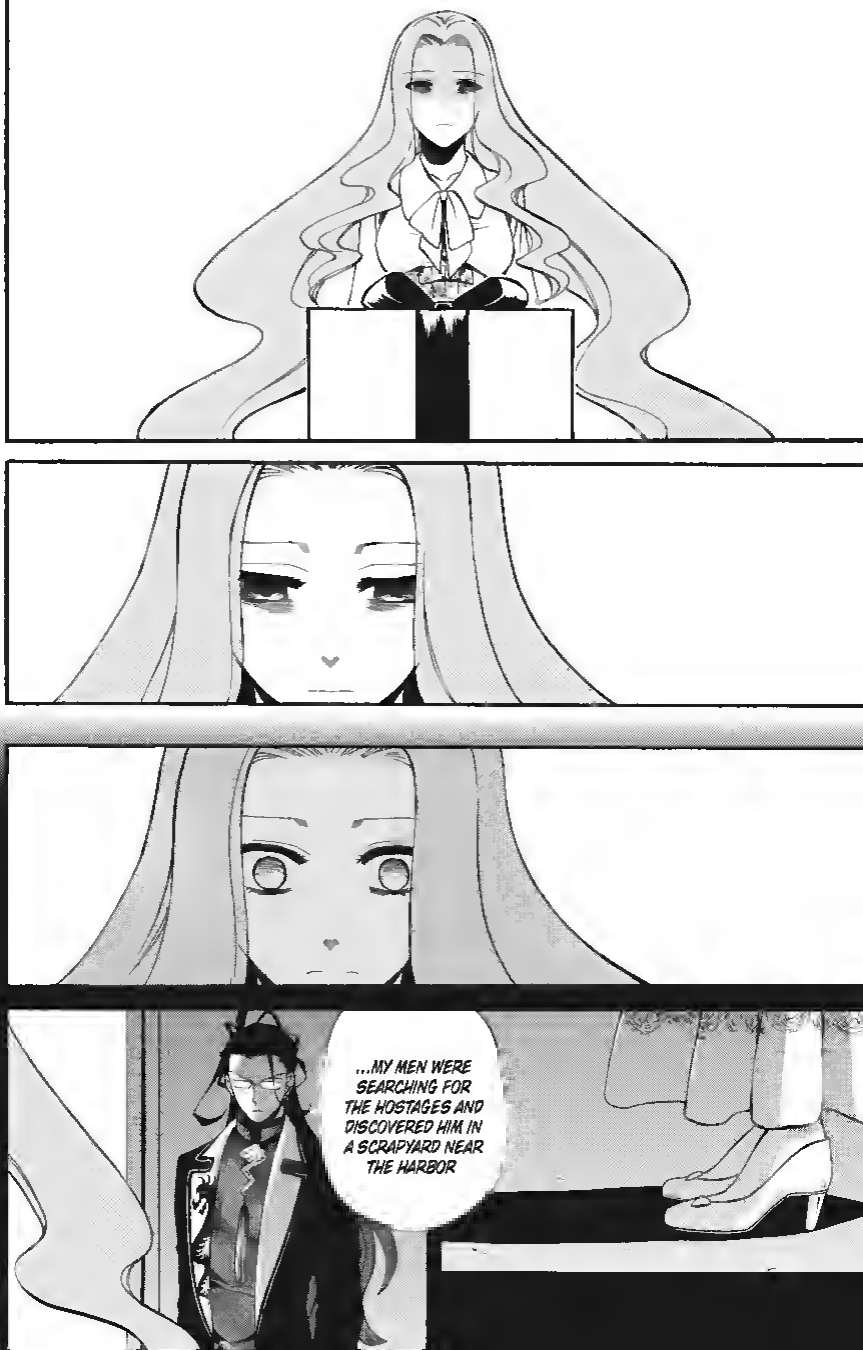
ARE WE TO UNDERSTAND... THAT YOUR SUPERIORS ARE SUPPORTING THIS?
IT'S THE SAFEST PLACE IN TOWN BY FAR.
ONLY THOSE WITH MILITARY CONNECTIONS ARE ALLOWED ON THE PREMISES.
THEN, WE SHALL PROVIDE WEAPONS AND INTELLIGENCE.
SLIP (SLICE)
OUR NECKS ARE HANGING BY A THREAD WITH THIS SITUATION. SO WE'RE SPARING NO EXPENSE.
BUT OF COURSE.
LEAVE THE INFILTRATION TO US, YES.
FOR WE KNOW THIS CITY BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE HERE, YES.
EH HEH HEH.
OH? IS THAT RIGHT?
YOUR BURDEN WILL BE THAT MUCH LIGHTER, ROSE, IF HE IS SO GENEROUS AS TO ASSIST, YES.
THE CAPTAIN'S AMPLE POCKETS SHOULD COVER THE FUNDS FOR YOUR WEAPONS.


THANK YOU, TRULY.
I PROMISE THAT A DAY WILL COME WHEN YOU ARE BOTH GLAD THAT I'M IN YOUR DEBT.

INCIDENTALLY, I HAVE SOME RATHER INTERESTING NEWS, YES.
SURELY IT TAKES A CONSIDERABLY GREEDY DISPOSITION TO DANGLE FALSE HOPE AS BAIT AND ABSCOND WITH THE PROFITS, YES.
AND WHO WAS IT WHO LIT HIS FUSE?
OUR FIRST STEP'S GOTTA BE FINDING CALEB IN THE FIRST PLACE...
I WISH YOU'D SAY THAT TO THOSE CALLING THE SHOTS. I THINK IT'S A TERRIBLE SHAME. I REALLY DO.
HE'S MORE DILIGENT THAN HE APPEARS.
HE'S GONE INTO HIDING, BUT I RECEIVE CALLS FROM HIM NOW AND THEN ABOUT THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXCLUSIVITY RIGHTS.

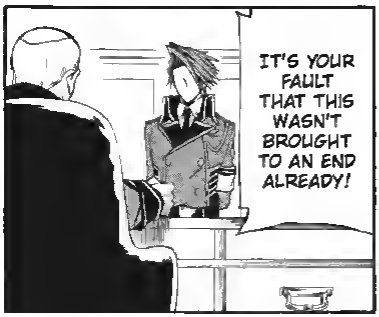
CALEB'S CONFIDANT, MIGUEL, HAS NOT BEEN SEEN FOR QUITE SOME TIME.
IT SEEMS THE LATTER CROSSED ONE TOO MANY LINES AND WORE OUT THE FORMER'S PATIENCE.
HEH. SO THAT KITTY CAT FINALLY GOT A SCOLDING.
THE REASON ASIDE, THIS IS QUITE FAVORABLE FOR US, YES.
FOR THAT MAN IS UNRIVALED IN HIS INTUITION, YES.
THAT CALEB ROSE TO POWER IN DISTRICT 23 WAS LARGELY DUE TO HIS CONFIDANT'S ABILITIES...
KON KONCHO
SO IF WE'RE TO MOVE, IT HAD BETTER BE SOON...
...WHAT IS IT?

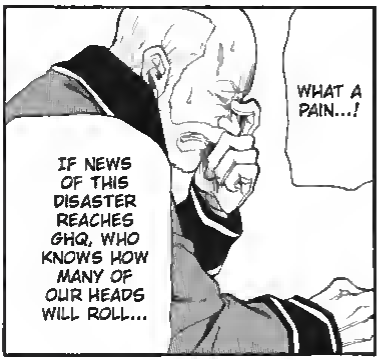
...THERE IS A POSSIBILITY...
...THAT A HOSTAGE HAS BEEN FOUND, YES.
KOTSU (STEP)
フッ!


...MY MEN WERE SEARCHING FOR THE HOSTAGES AND DISCOVERED HIM IN A SCRAPYARD NEAR THE HARBOR

DUE TO EXTENSIVE PHYSICAL TRAUMA, WE CANNOT TRULY DETERMINE WHETHER THIS IS HIM OR NOT...
GRABBA
PULL IT TOGETHER, ROSE!
CLAUDIA HAS NOT BEEN FOUND. THIS DISPLAY WAS LIKELY MEANT TO LURE YOU OUT, ROSE...
WAYNE'S FACE ISN'T QUITE THIS UGLY!
THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A TRICK MEANT TO PROVOKE YOU!!
UHH...
Y-YEAH! THAT GUY WOULDN'T CROAK SO EASILY!
DON'T LET 'EM SHAKE YOU UP!!
AH...

ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING, CAPTAIN BUTLER?
DON CELANO


IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT THIS WASN'T BROUGHT TO AN END ALREADY!


WHAT A PAIN...!
IF NEWS OF THIS DISASTER REACHES GHQ, WHO KNOWS HOW MANY OF OUR HEADS WILL ROLL...

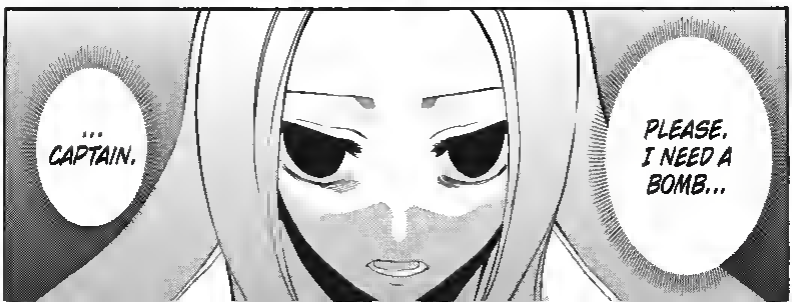
UAHHHHH!!

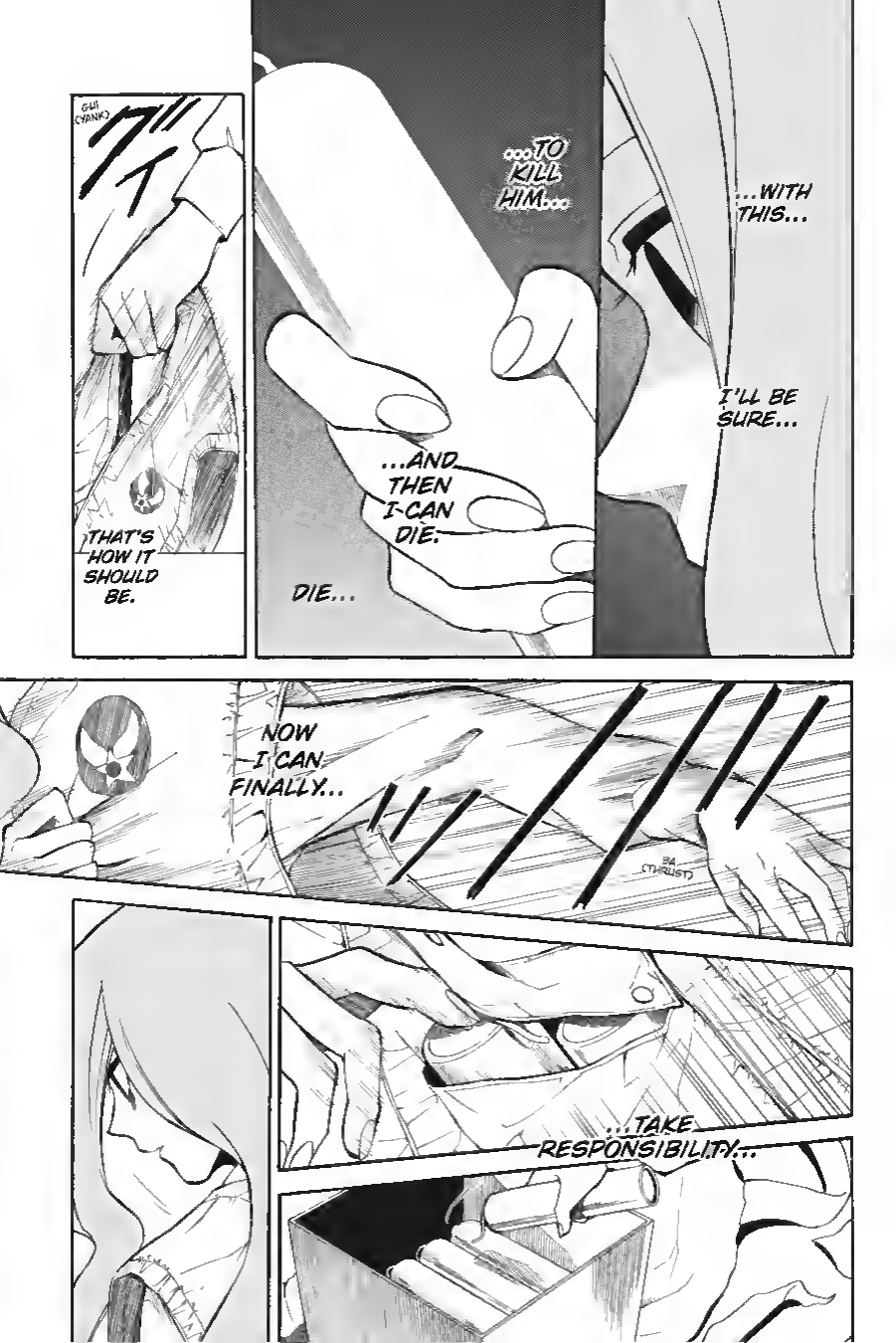
NOW, NOW. NOTHING TO GET SO UPSET OVER.
A SUCCESSFUL FOX HUNT ALWAYS REQUIRES A PRIME FOXHOUND.
TCH... AND I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE ONE IN MIND...?
OF COURSE. A HOUND THAT WILL SURELY LURE OUT THIS FOX.
THE PLAN IS ALREADY IN MOTION...
A REQUEST, YOU SAY?
...THEN...
I'LL HELP IN ANY WAY IF IT'S WITHIN MY POWER.
A REAL SHAME ABOUT YOUR FRIEND...

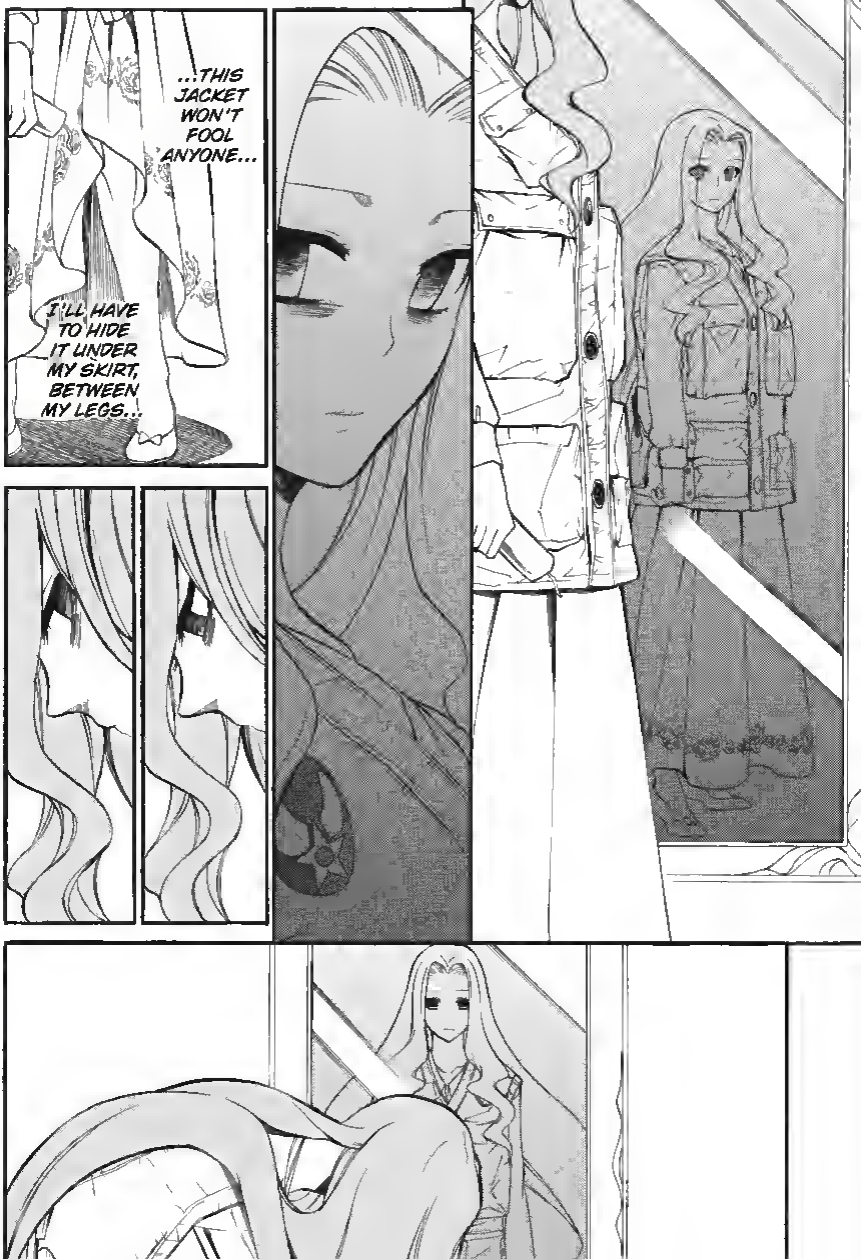
A BOMB.

I'LL HIDE IT ON ME AND GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO CALEB-SAN TO KILL US BOTH.

I PREACHED THE DRAGON'S IDEALS BUT DIDN'T HAVE THE FORTITUDE TO GET MY HANDS DIRTY. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO FINALLY TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.
RO—


... CAPTAIN.
PLEASE. I NEED A BOMB...


GUI CHANK
...TO KILL HIM...
...WITH THIS...
I'LL BE SURE...
...AND THEN I CAN DIE.
DIE...
THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD BE.
NOW I CAN FINALLY...
SA (THRUST)
...TAKE RESPONSIBILITY...

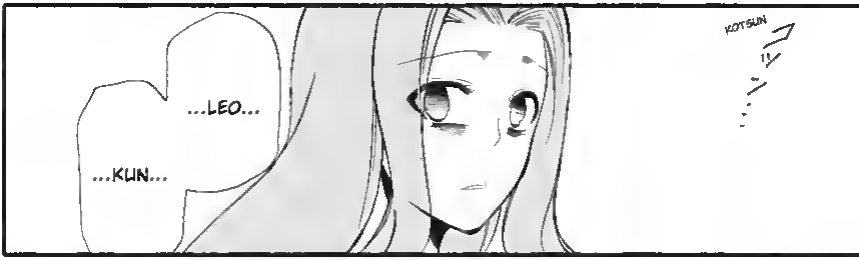

...THIS JACKET WON'T FOOL ANYONE...
I'LL HAVE TO HIDE IT UNDER MY SKIRT, BETWEEN MY LEGS...

...THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY ...
I HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO STOP CALEB-SAN...
...THE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVED IN ME ARE DYING...
...TO BECOME THE DRAGON...
I HAVE TO...
...I HAVE TO.
I HAVE TO BECOME THE DRAGON.

SO MANY HAVE BEEN SACRIFICED FOR THE DRAGON'S IDEALS I PREACHED.
I HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT WITH MY OWN FLESH.
...STOP IT.
THAT'S WHY I MUST BECOME THE DRAGON.
KIIII (SCHEEEEE)
STOP IT...
STOP IT...
THEY'VE DIED.
SO MANY HAVE SUFFERED FOR YOUR IDEALS.

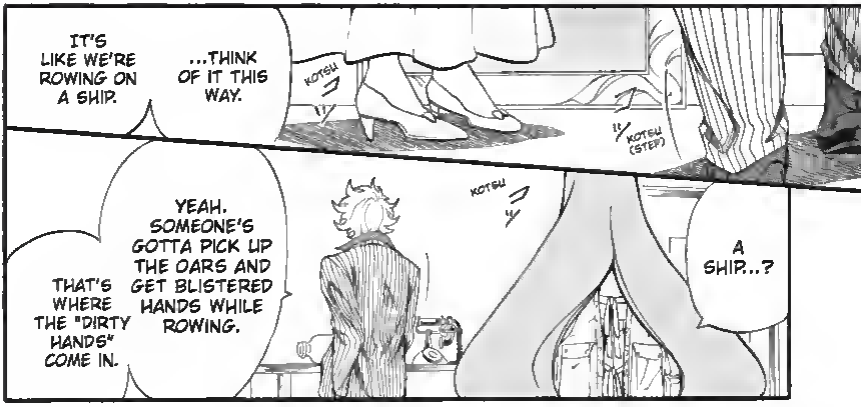
SO YOU HAVE TO DIE AS WELL.
AH.....
TCH...
THAT SORT OF COAT IN STYLE THIS SEASON?

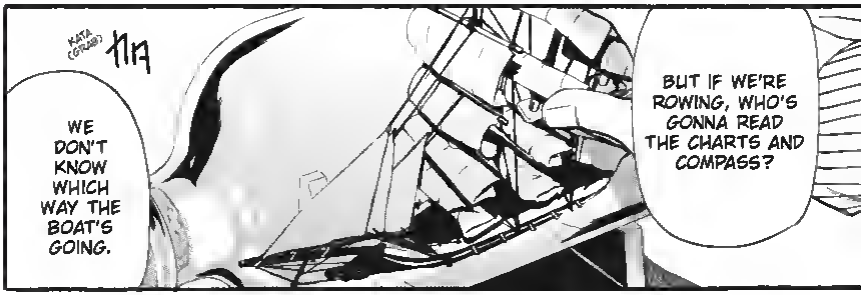
GOTTA SAY, IT DOESN'T SUIT YOU.
KOTSU (STEP)
LEMME PICK YOUR OUTFIT THIS TIME.
KOTSU
KOTSU
KOTSU

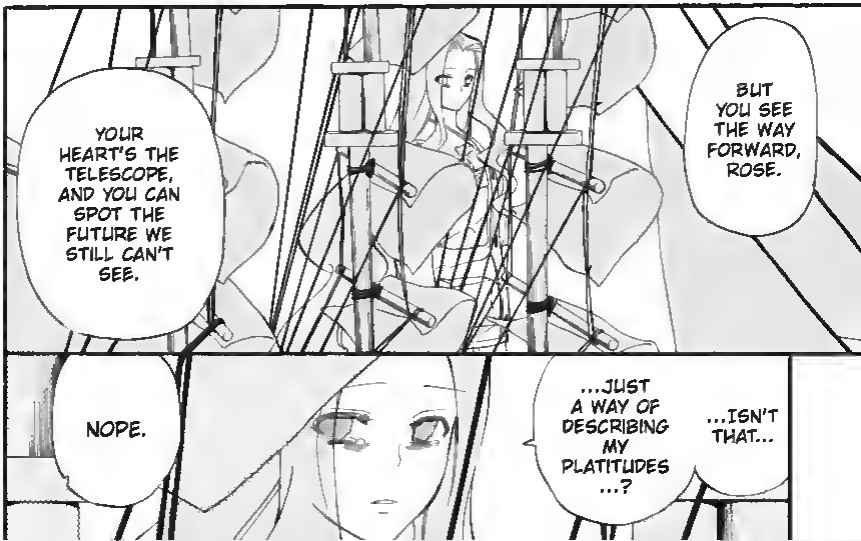

KOTSUN
...LEO...
...KUN...

KINDA BIG FOR LIPSTICK, DON'CHA THINK?
SMELLS WEIRD TOO.
GU (FWIP)

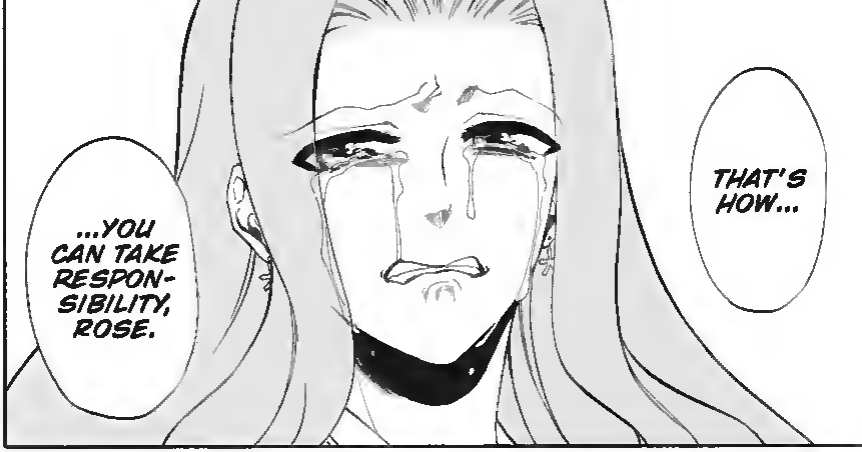
RIGHT.
GOTO COLUMN
MY IDEALS CAUSED ALL THIS... I HAVE TO DIE...TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY...
...BUT...
...I HAVE TO...
IF YOU SAY ALL THAT AND THEN DIE FOR NOTHING...
...THEN THEY REALLY WERE JUST PLATITUDES.
YEAH, I KNOW THAT NOW!
I KNOW LEADING MEANS GETTING YOUR HANDS DIRTY...I THAT'S WHY I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE HERE.
I CAN'T THINK OF ANOTHER WAY TO TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY...!!
...THERE IS ONE.

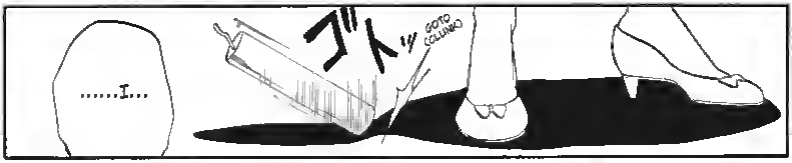

IT'S LIKE WE'RE ROWING ON A SHIP.
...THINK OF IT THIS WAY.
KOTSU
KOTSU (STEP)
A SHIP...?
KOTSU
YEAH. SOMEONE'S GOTTA PICK UP THE OARS AND GET BLISTERED HANDS WHILE ROWING.
THAT'S WHERE THE "DIRTY HANDS" COME IN.

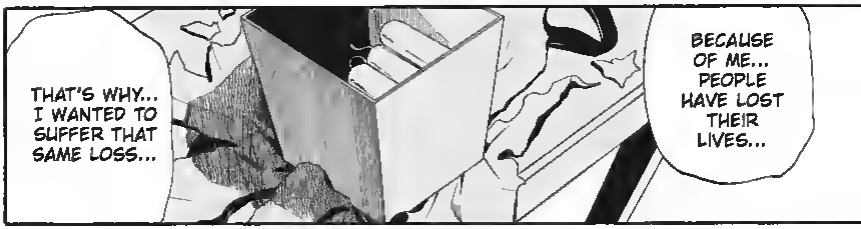

KATA (GOTSU)
WE DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY THE BOAT'S GOING.
BUT IF WE'RE ROWING, WHO'S GONNA READ THE CHARTS AND COMPASS?

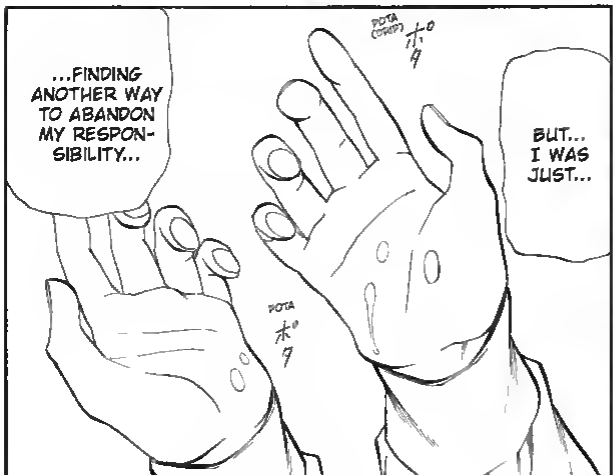

YOUR HEART'S THE TELESCOPE, AND YOU CAN SPOT THE FUTURE WE STILL CAN'T SEE.
BUT YOU SEE THE WAY FORWARD, ROSE.
NOPE.
...JUST A WAY OF DESCRIBING MY PLATITUDES ...?
...ISN'T THAT...

I'M TALKING ...
...ABOUT OUR DESTINATION.
YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN, ROSE. SO PICK YOUR ROUTE AND ORDER US ROWERS TO WORK THOSE BLISTERS.
PEOPLE WILL MOVE FORWARD IF A LIGHT SHINES A PATH THROUGH THE DARKNESS.
IT'S LIKE I SAID.
.....NN.
BECAUSE THAT'S THE CAPTAIN'S DUTY.
DO THAT, AND IT'LL BE LIKE YOUR HANDS ARE DIRTIER THAN ANYONE'S, ROSE.
BUT YOU JUST GOTTA KEEP THAT CHIN UP AND SCREW YOUR EYES ON THE DESTINATION.
YOU'RE GONNA LOSE SOME ROWERS ON THE VOYAGE. IT'LL HAPPEN.

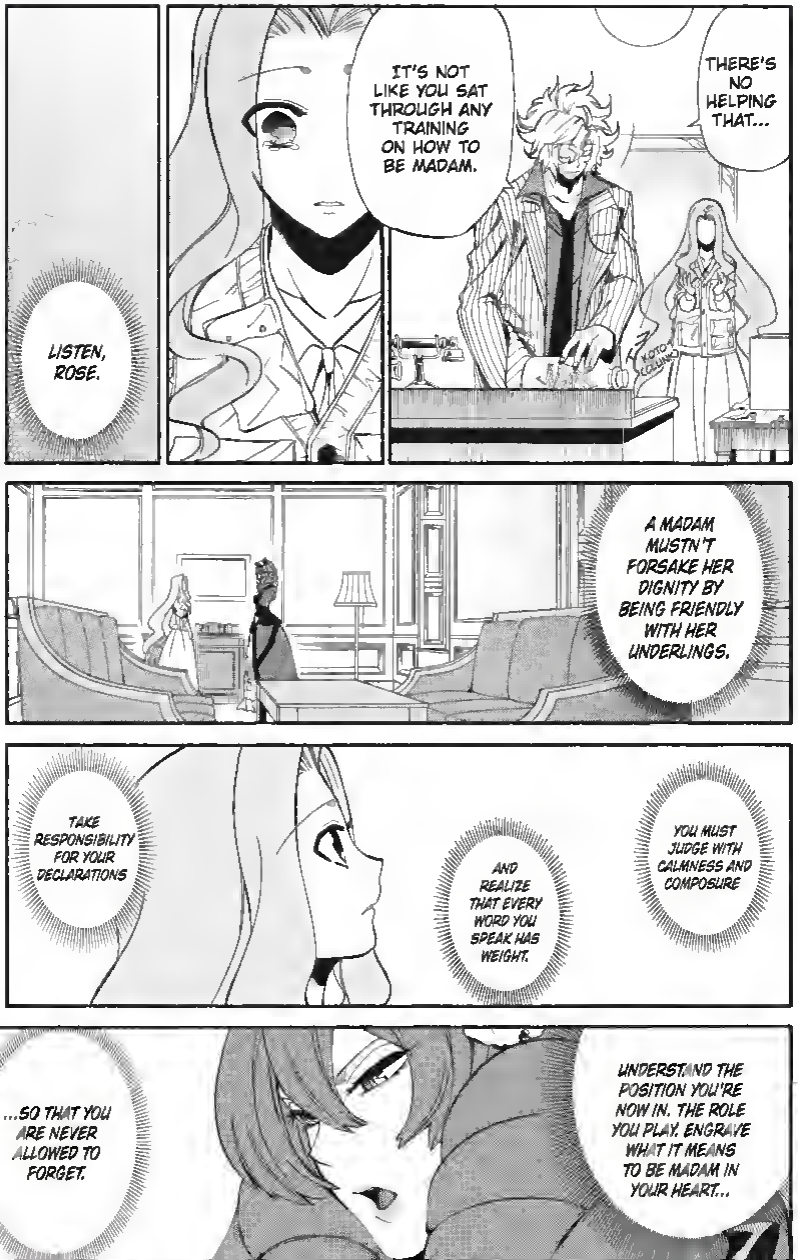

THAT'S HOW...
...YOU CAN TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY, ROSE.

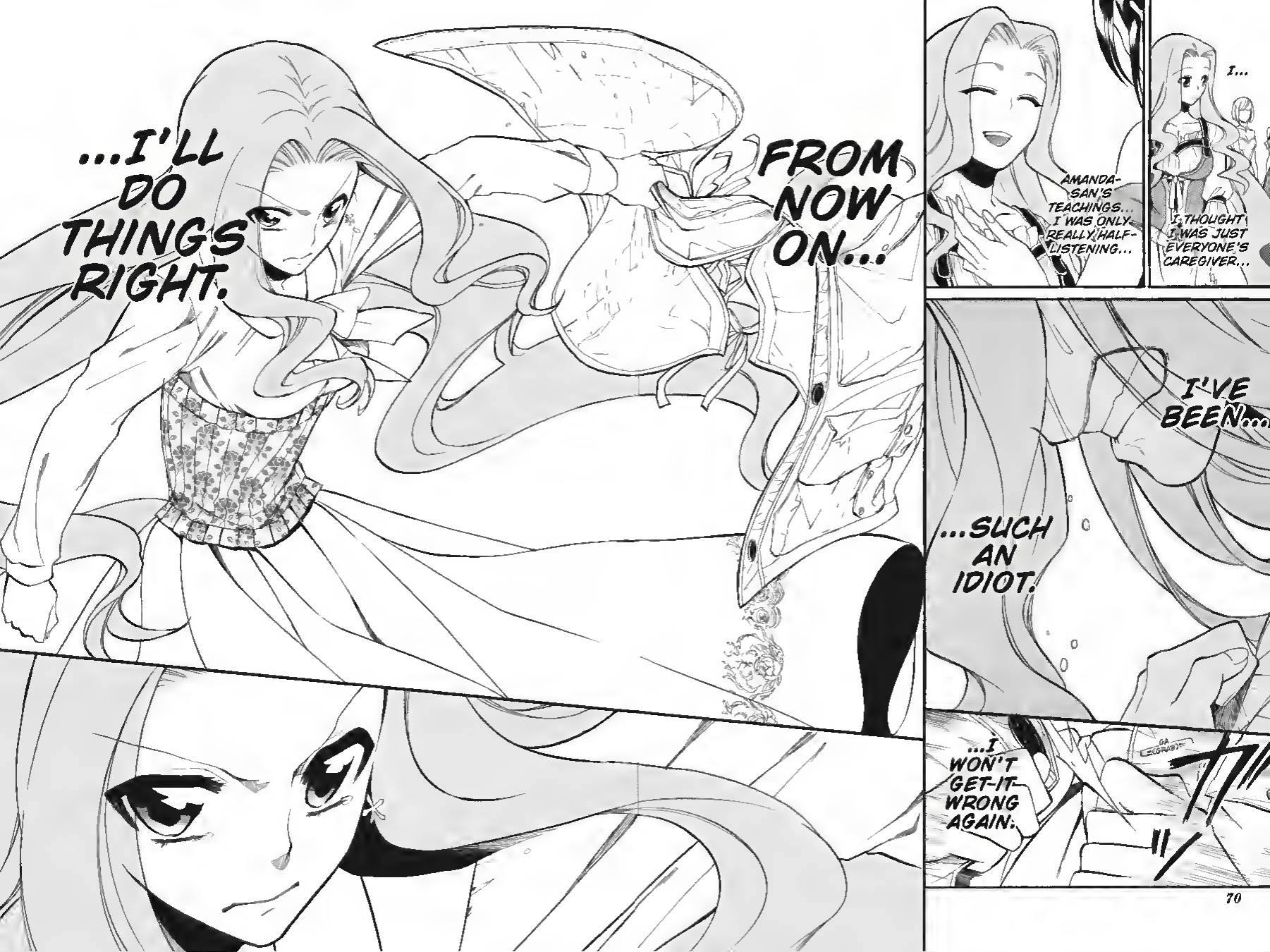

.....I...
ゴト
GOTO (CLUNK)

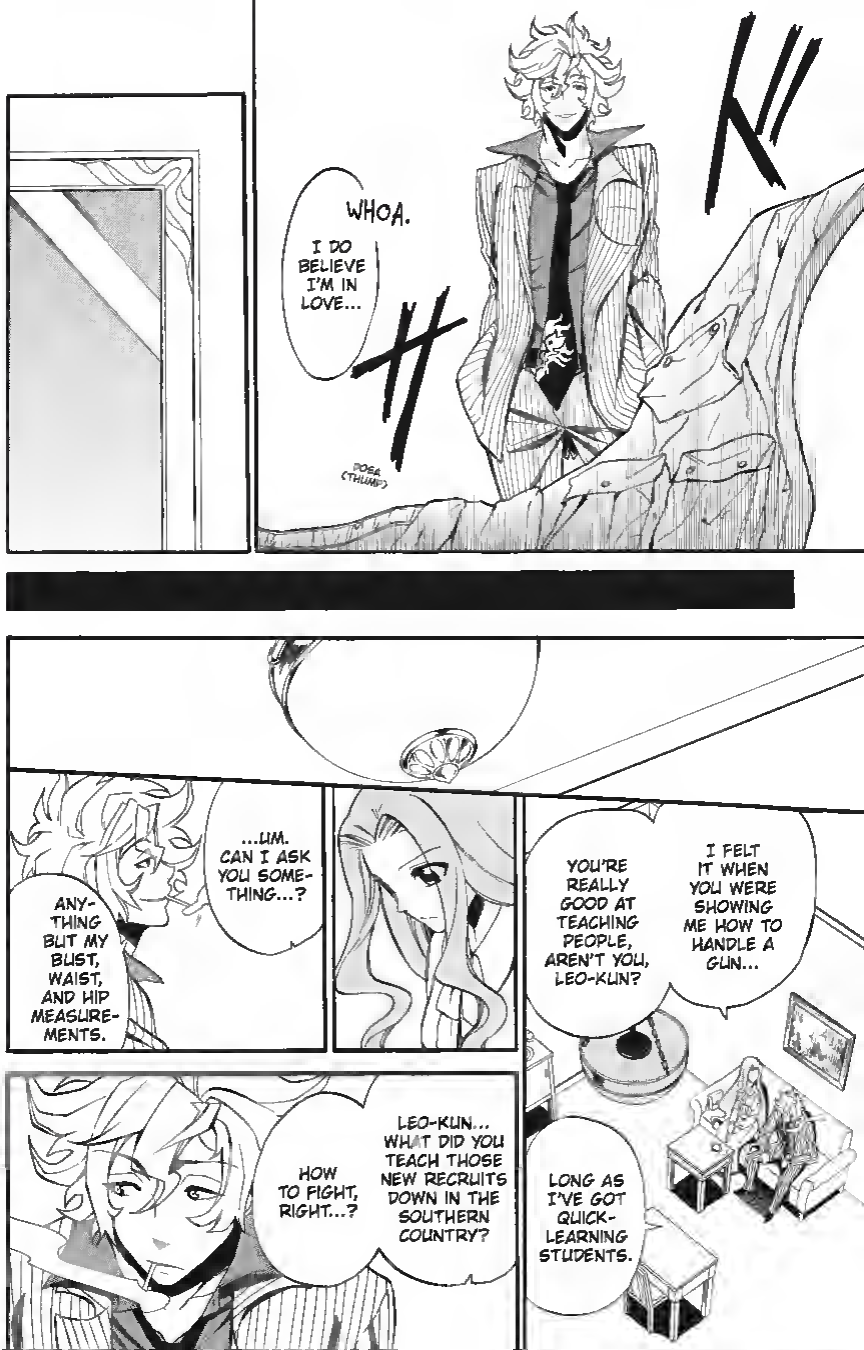

BECAUSE OF ME... PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES...
THAT'S WHY... I WANTED TO SUFFER THAT SAME LOSS...


...FINDING ANOTHER WAY TO ABANDON MY RESPON-SIBILITY...
POTA (OTHER)
BUT... I WAS JUST...
POTA

IF I DIDN'T... HOW COULD I...


LISTEN, ROSE.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU SAT THROUGH ANY TRAINING ON HOW TO BE MADAM.
THERE'S NO HELPING THAT...
A MADAM MUSTN'T FORSAKE HER DIGNITY BY BEING FRIENDLY WITH HER UNDERLINGS.
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR DECLARATIONS
AND REALIZE THAT EVERY WORD YOU SPEAK HAS WEIGHT.
YOU MUST JUDGE WITH CALMNESS AND COMPOSURE
...SO THAT YOU ARE NEVER ALLOWED TO FORGET.
UNDERSTAND THE POSITION YOU'RE NOW IN. THE ROLE YOU PLAY. ENGRAVE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE MADAM IN YOUR HEART...

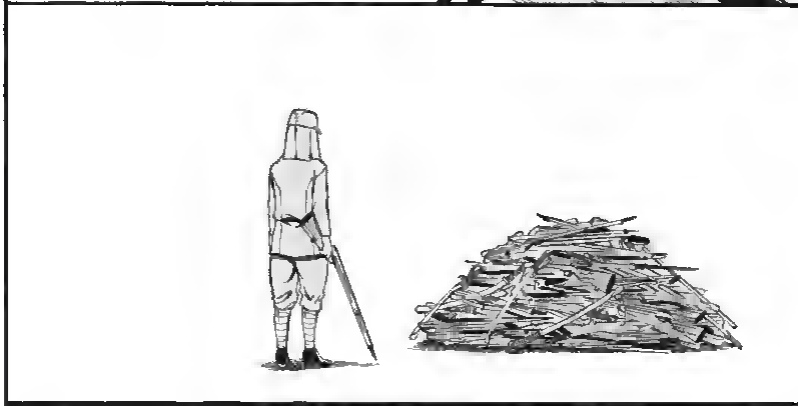

...I'LL DO THINGS RIGHT.
FROM NOW ON...
AMANDA-SAN'S TEACHINGS... I WAS ONLY REALLY HALF-LISTENING...
I...
I THOUGHT I WAS JUST EVERYONE'S CAREGIVER...
I'VE BEEN...
...SUCH AN IDIOT.
...I WON'T GET-IT-WRONG AGAIN.
GA (GRAB)


WHOA.
I DO BELIEVE I'M IN LOVE...
ROSA (THUMP)
...UM. CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING...?
ANYTHING BUT MY BUST, WAIST, AND HIP MEASUREMENTS.
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT TEACHING PEOPLE, AREN'T YOU, LEO-KUN?
I FELT IT WHEN YOU WERE SHOWING ME HOW TO HANDLE A GUN...
LONG AS I'VE GOT QUICK-LEARNING STUDENTS.
LEO-KUN... WHAT DID YOU TEACH THOSE NEW RECRUITS DOWN IN THE SOUTHERN COUNTRY?
HOW TO FIGHT, RIGHT...?

...YEAH.
THAT PLACE'D BEEN A COLONY FOR AGES...
THEY NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO LEARN HOW TO FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE.
MY JOB WAS TO TEACH THEM WHAT THEY NEEDED TO DEFEND THEIR COUNTRY.
YOU'RE GONNA WIN THAT INDEPENDENCE! I'LL FIGHT BY YOUR SIDE!
THAT'S WHY WE CAME HERE!
YEAHHHHHH!
... HOWEVER ...

WHICH MEANT THE COLONIZERS WERE SURE TO RETURN...
...DISASTER STRUCK JAPAN, AND THE ARMY WAS ORDERED TO DISARM AND COME HOME.

...AND I WAS BEING ORDERED TO ABANDON THEM...
...THESE PEOPLE HAD GIVEN EVERYTHING TO WIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE ...
TO ME, IT FELT LIKE...



YUP. AND ALL I HAD THERE WERE MY THOUGHTS.
...AND THEN THE RETURN SHIP SANK AND YOU FOUND YOURSELF IN THE ALLIED FORCES' DETENTION FACILITY...

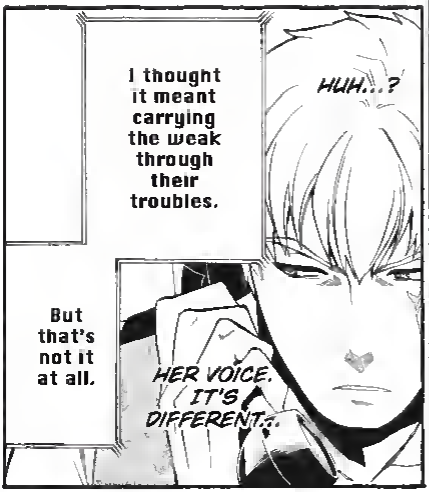
WHY HAD I BEEN FIGHTING? WHAT WAS IT I SHOULD DO...?
THE MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, THE LESS CLEAR IT ALL BECAME.
THE GUYS PULLING THE STRINGS SAID IT WAS A JUST CAUSE, LIBERATING THESE COLONIES FROM THEIR OPPRESSORS, BUT WAS THAT REALLY IT?
OR WAS IT THAT THEY JUST WANTED NEW COLONIES FOR THEMSELVES...?
...BEFORE I KNEW IT, THREE YEARS HAD PASSED...
EDOGAWA
...BUT THEN...
...I SPOTTED AN ARTICLE ABOUT THAT COUNTRY AFTER I CAME HOME, AND I REMEMBERED.
AT THAT POINT, I COULDN'T REALLY GIVE A DAMN ABOUT ANY OF IT.

I WAS SURE OUR PLATITUDES WOULD'VE COME TO NOTHING AND THE COUNTRY WOULD'VE REVERTED TO THE CONTROL OF THE OLD COLONIZERS...
...BUT I WAS WRONG.
THEY FORMED A VOLUNTEER ARMY AND KEPT ON FIGHTING FOR INDEPENDENCE ....
YEAH... IT SHOULDN'T HAVE MATTERED TO ME ANYMORE... BUT THE MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
...THE MORE I REMEM-BERED THEIR EARNEST FACES...
...THE MORE I THINK I SHOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN ON THAT SHIP...
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT...
GYU (CLENCH)
LEO-KUN...

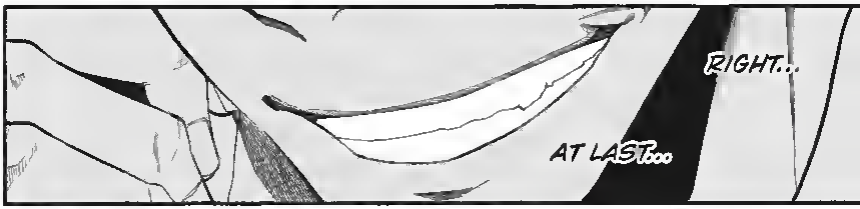
I CAN NEVER BREAK ANOTHER PROMISE.
MOST OF THEIR MAJOR CITIES HAVE ALREADY SURRENDERED...
THEY KEEP RESISTING WITH GUERILLA TACTICS, BUT... THERE'S LITTLE HOPE...
READING THAT, I JUST...
GO (TOUCH)
LEO-KUN...
FINISH THIS BATTLE ALONGSIDE ME.
AND THEN GO PUT AN END TO YOUR OWN WAR.
... ROSE ...
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.

I CAN DO IT.
BECAUSE YOU'VE ALL GIVEN ME YOUR STRENGTH.
...I'LL HAVE TRANSFORMED YOUR HOME-TOWN INTO A PLACE YOU CAN FEEL NOSTALGIC ABOUT.
BY THE TIME YOU RETURN...
I'LL TAKE THIS FIGHT TO THE END IF IT'S TO LEAD OUR COUNTRY-MEN...
.....
I KNOW THE FEELING.
JUJI (FSH)
...JUST HOW I OUGHTA BURN A PATH THROUGH LIFE.
...BECAUSE YOU'VE TAUGHT ME...

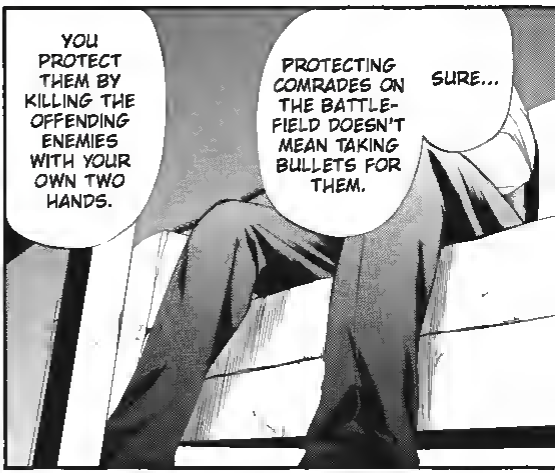
ZAN
ZAN (DISTANT)
ZAN
ZAN
GISHI GISHI
KOU OKADOU
YOU
WHAT IS IT...?
SORRY TO WAKE YOU SO EARLY.
BUT YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL, FATHER.
FROM WHO?
WELL... IT'S ROSE...


I thought it meant carrying the weak through their troubles.
But that's not it at all.
HUH...?
HER VOICE. IT'S DIFFERENT...

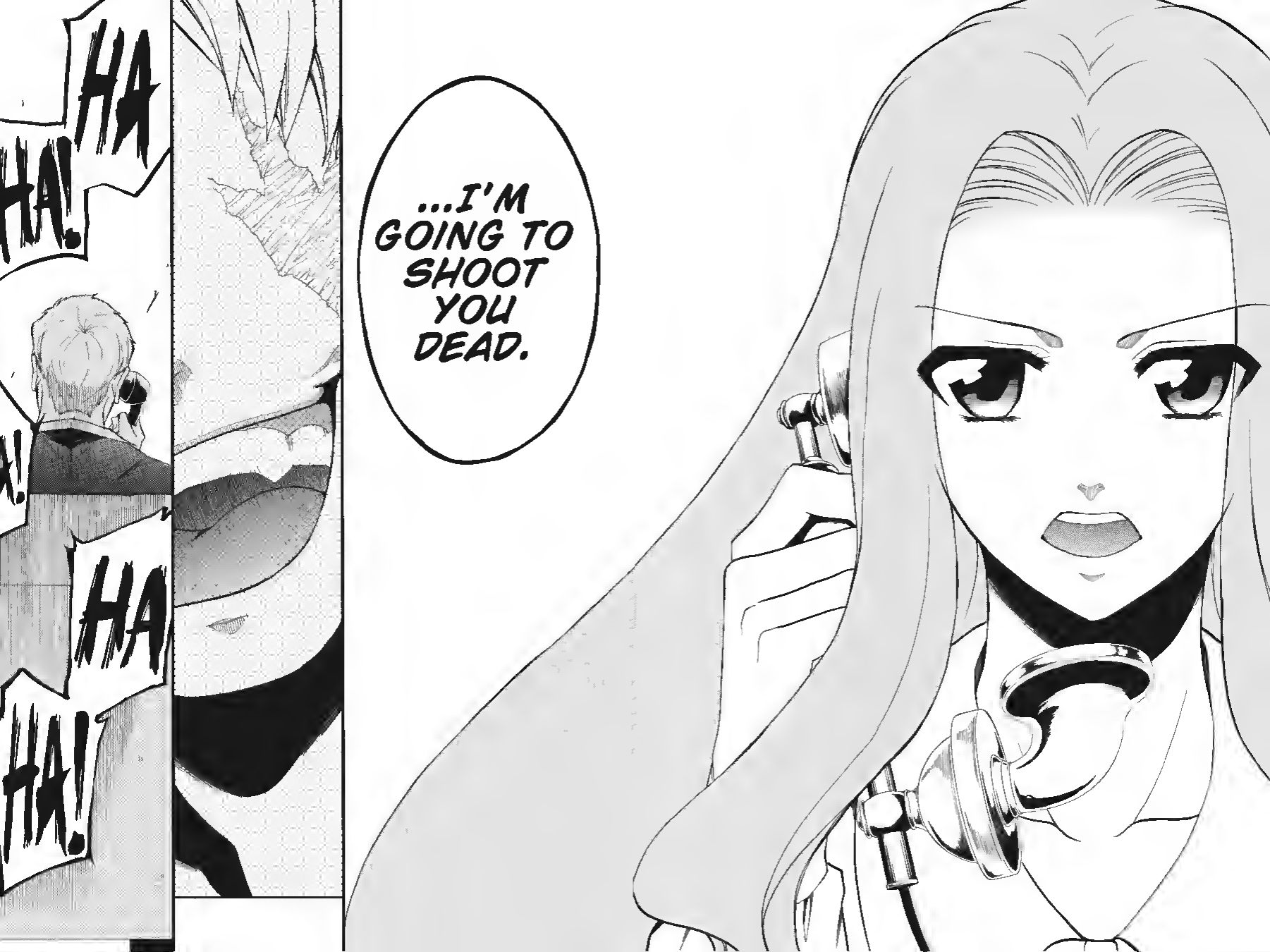
Caleb-san. I've been wrong about what it means to protect people.
...HEY, ROSE.


RIGHT...
AT LAST...

...And I haven't been prepared to do that.
THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T PROTECT ANYONE.


YOU PROTECT THEM BY KILLING THE OFFENDING ENEMIES WITH YOUR OWN TWO HANDS.
PROTECTING COMRADES ON THE BATTLE-FIELD DOESN'T MEAN TAKING BULLETS FOR THEM.
SURE...

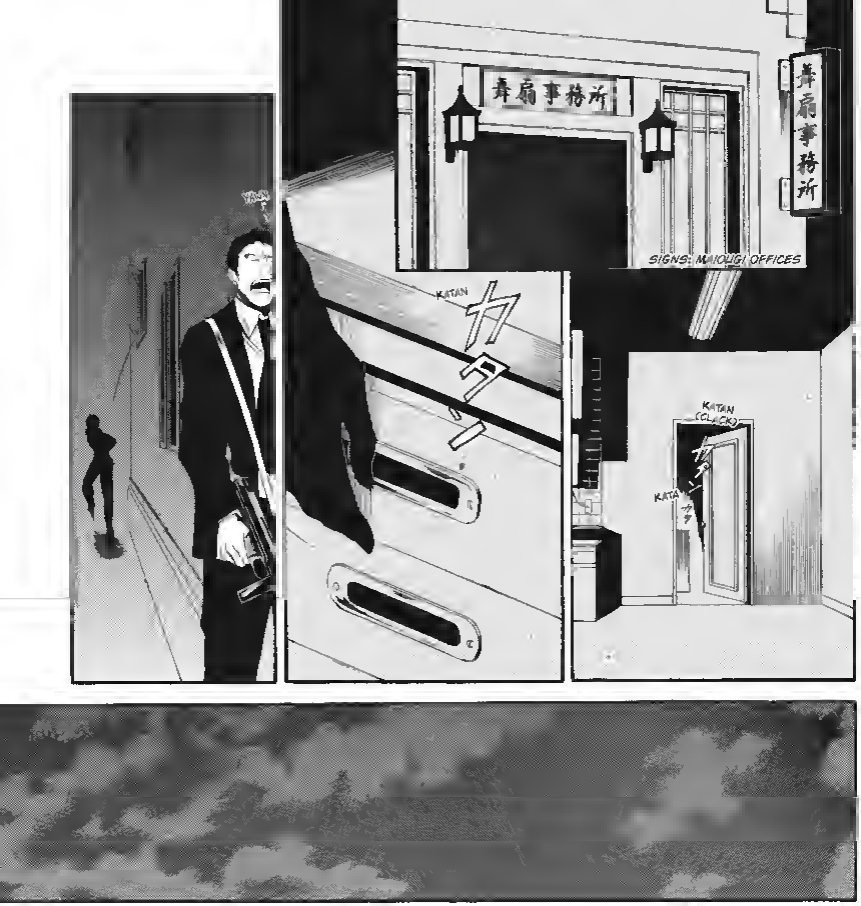
BUT NOW I'M READY TO FIGHT TO PROTECT MY FELLOW JAPANESE— TO REALLY PROTECT THEM.
RIGHT.
...BUT THIS SHIP ONLY NEEDS ONE CAPTAIN.
If you look past the details, I've got basically the same goal.
Excel-lent...
BECAUSE THAT'S THE PATH WE'VE CHOSEN HERE...
SO WHICH OF US IS MEANT TO DIE, THEN?
...with my own two hands...
That's why...
Indeed.


HA
HA!
HA
HA!
...I'M GOING TO SHOOT YOU DEAD.

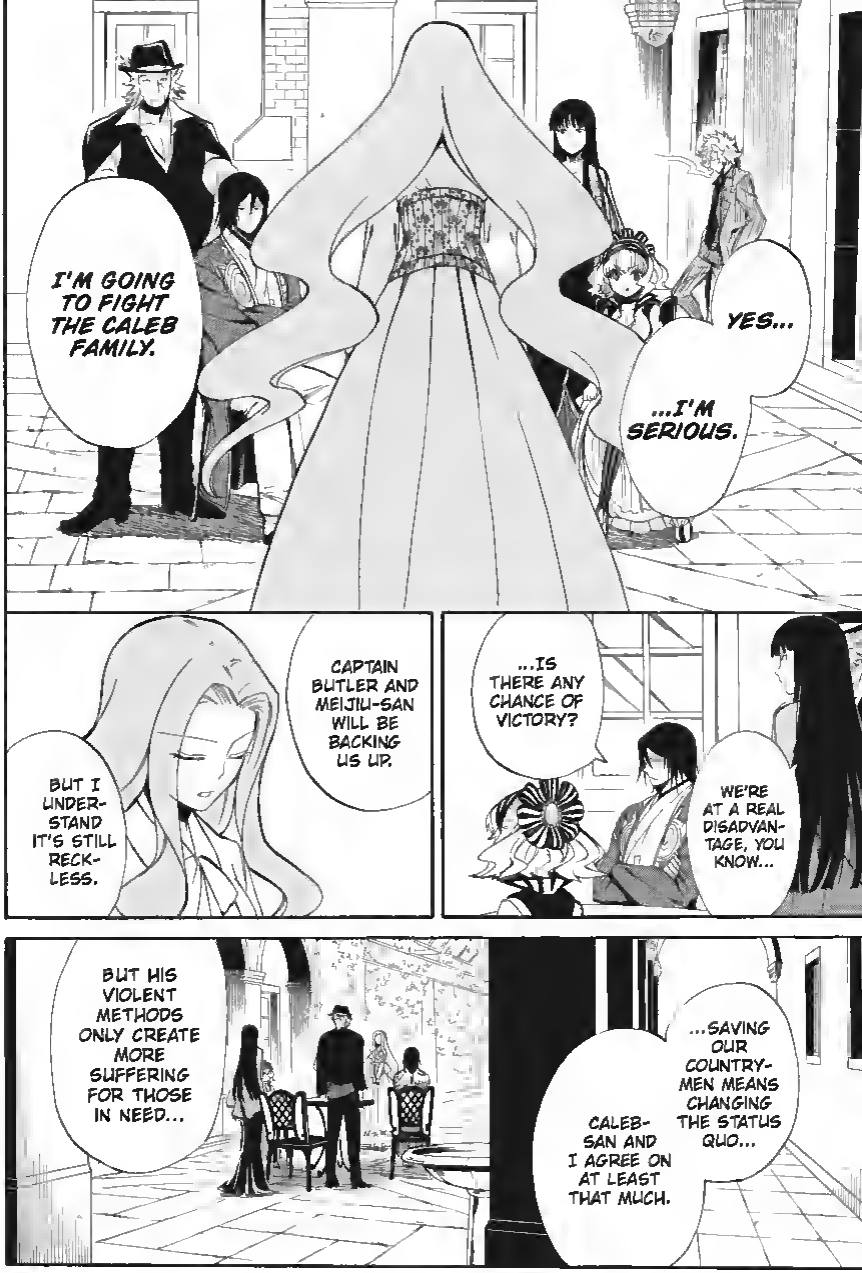
I'LL MEET YOU HEAD ON...!!
...COME, THEN.

YOU SURE CRY A LOT.
HAH HAH HA.
AS A MAN, I TAKE PRIDE IN IT.
YOU A YOUNGEST SON, BY ANY CHANCE?
UHH -SNIFFLE-
...I'M SO SORRY YOU GOT BURNED...
GASHI (FLUID)
ガシ
GASHI
ガシ

Scene: 17


葬扇事務所
葬扇事務所
SIGNS: MAIOUGI OFFICES
KATAN
KATAN (CLACK)
KATA
KATAN

Y-YOU SERIOUS, ROSE?


I'M GOING TO FIGHT THE CALEB FAMILY.
YES...
...I'M SERIOUS.
CAPTAIN BUTLER AND MEIJIU-SAN WILL BE BACKING US UP.
BUT I UNDERSTAND IT'S STILL RECKLESS.
...IS THERE ANY CHANCE OF VICTORY?
WE'RE AT A REAL DISADVANTAGE, YOU KNOW...
BUT HIS VIOLENT METHODS ONLY CREATE MORE SUFFERING FOR THOSE IN NEED...
CALEB-SAN AND I AGREE ON AT LEAST THAT MUCH.
...SAVING OUR COUNTRYMEN MEANS CHANGING THE STATUS QUO...

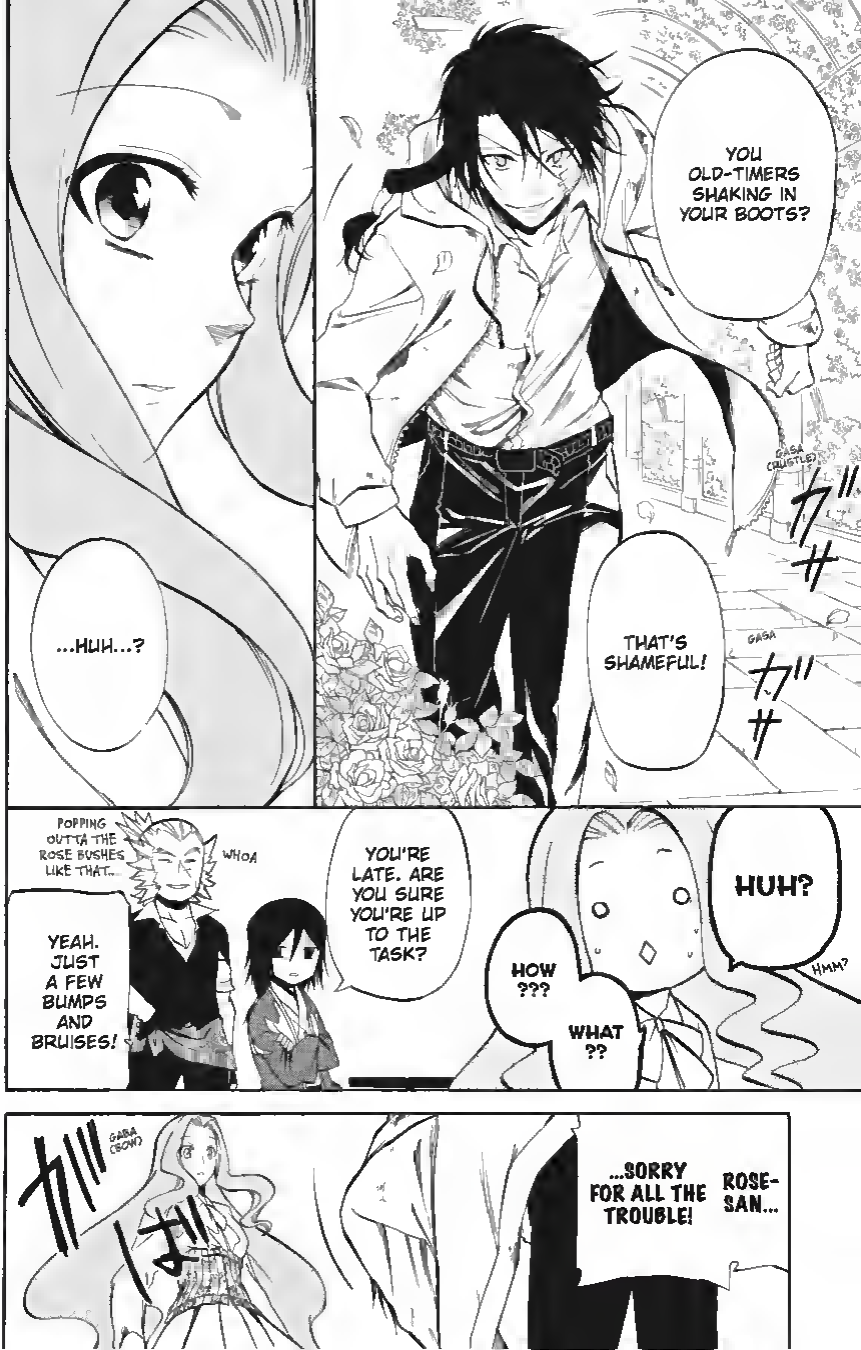
...EVEN IF WE TAKE DOWN CALEB, WON'T THERE JUST BE A STRUGGLE TO REPLACE HIM?
A LOT OF BIGWIGS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY ARE HOPING TO CONTROL DISTRICT 23 AND ITS KEY PORTS
...IF HE CAUSES ANY MORE INCIDENTS, IT WILL MEAN MORE TROUBLE FOR THE CITIZENRY AND A DISPLEASED GARRISON.
SHOULD THE JAPANESE ACTUALLY REVOLT, WE COULD FIND OUR PEOPLE FURTHER SUPPRESSED NATIONWIDE.
AS OF NOW, THE ONLY OUTSIDERS MEDDLING IN DISTRICT 23'S AFFAIRS ARE THE GOLDEN DRAGONS.
THEIR PRESENCE IS, IN FACT, HOLDING BACK OTHER POWERS FROM MOVING IN.
IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THE GOLDEN DRAGONS MET THEIR END, DISTRICT 23 WOULD FALL VICTIM TO PREDATORS ON ALL SIDES.
THAT'S RIGHT.
SO IN ORDER TO TRULY SAVE THE JAPANESE IN DISTRICT 23, A FIGHTING FORCE IS ESSENTIAL.

THAT'S BECAUSE I COULDN'T STAND UP TO THE VIOLENCE.
HOWEVER... I SUBMITTED TO THE CALEB FAMILY'S VIOLENCE AND ABANDONED MY POSITION.
IN THE PAST, I'VE STATED MY IDEALS. HOW I WANT TO SAVE OUR COUNTRY-MEN.
EVERYONE FEELS THAT WAY, SO WE END UP LETTING THOSE PERPETRATING THE VIOLENCE CONTROL US...
VIOLENCE IS HARD TO WIT-NESS.
WHEN A FIGHT BREAKS OUT, THE CLEVER AMONG US WILL IGNORE IT AND RUSH PAST.
THAT'S WHY A RESOLUTE RESPONSE TO SUCH AN UNREASON-ABLE ENEMY IS NECESSARY.
WE NEED SOMEONE TO STAND UP AND BEAR THE FULL BRUNT OF THAT VIOLENCE!
AND I...
... NOMINATE MYSELF.

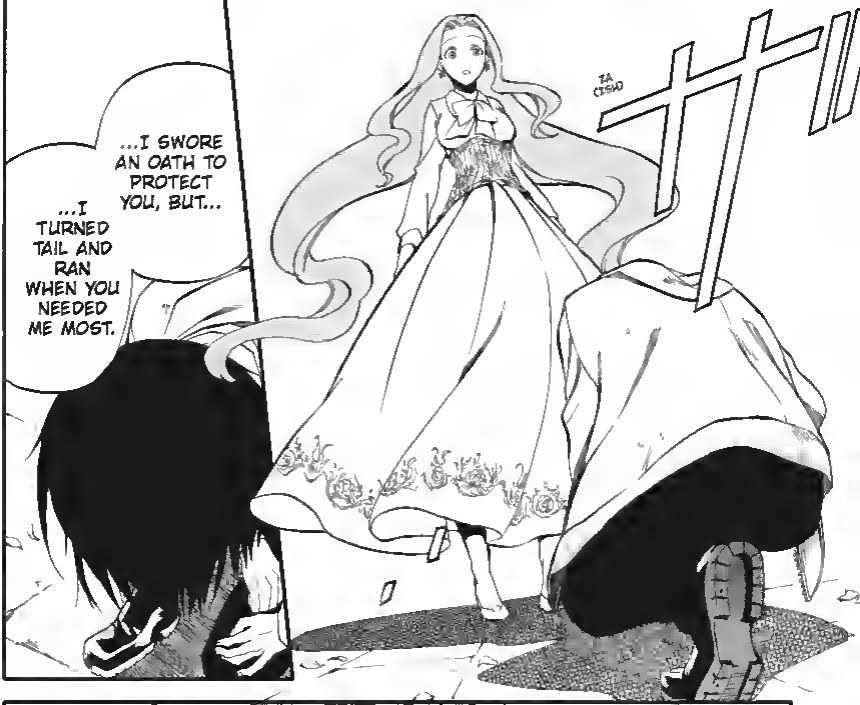
I HEREBY PROPOSE THAT PRIMA-VERA...
...BE REBORN AS AN ORGANI-ZATION THAT PROTECTS THE JAPANESE!
BUT MY POWER ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH...
I NEED FRIENDS AND ALLIES.
SO PLEASE... LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH!

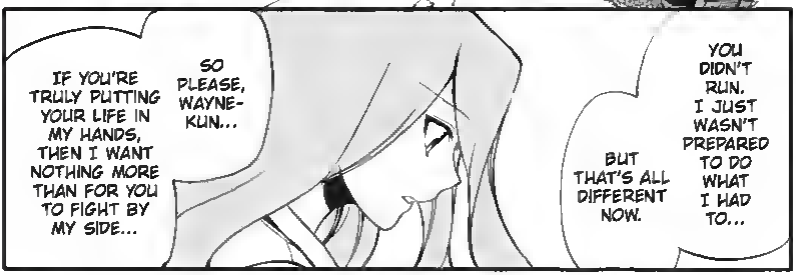
...THIS WAR WE'RE GONNA WAGE...
IT AIN'T GONNA END AFTER THROWING A FEW PUNCHES... RIGHT...?
RIGHT.
THAT'S WHY I WON'T FORCE YOU...

GASA (RUSTLE)
I'M YOURS TO COMMAND, ROSE-SAN!!


...HUH...?
YOU OLD-TIMERS SHAKING IN YOUR BOOTS?
GASA (RUSTLE)
THAT'S SHAMEFUL!
GASA
POPPING OUTTA THE ROSE BUSHES LIKE THAT...
WHOA
YEAH. JUST A FEW BUMPS AND BRUISES!
YOU'RE LATE. ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE UP TO THE TASK?
HOW ???
WHAT ??
HUH?
HMM?
GASA (SOUND)
...SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE!
ROSE-SAN...

CLAUDIA PANICKED AND HURT HERSELF WHEN WE RAN, SO SHE'S IN THE HOSPITAL, BUT SHE'S SAFE.
AND THE CAPTAIN JUST BROUGHT US HERE.
WE FOUND A CHANCE TO ESCAPE AND TOOK IT. THEN THE GARRISON PICKED US UP.
BA
JUST COULDN'T FIND THE RIGHT TIME TO SAY SOME-THING.
INDEED. THAT CORPSE WAS A FAKE.
MM-HM.
IT WAS RIGHT AFTER YOU WENT OUT TO TALK TO THE CAPTAIN OR WHATEVER.
BA (TURN)
...DID YOU ALL... KNOW ...?
LEO-KUN!!
LE...
ROSE-SAN...
KOTSU (STEP)


...I SWORE AN OATH TO PROTECT YOU, BUT...
...I TURNED TAIL AND RAN WHEN YOU NEEDED ME MOST.


YOU DIDN'T RUN. I JUST WASN'T PREPARED TO DO WHAT I HAD TO...
BUT THAT'S ALL DIFFERENT NOW.
SO PLEASE, WAYNE-KUN...
IF YOU'RE TRULY PUTTING YOUR LIFE IN MY HANDS, THEN I WANT NOTHING MORE THAN FOR YOU TO FIGHT BY MY SIDE...

DOES THAT MEAN YOU FORGIVE ME...?
WILL YOU...
...GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE TO BE YOUR MAD DOG, ROSE-SAN...?

SU (TOUCH)
OF COURSE.
YOU'RE THE ONLY MAD DOG FOR ME, WAYNE-KUN.
O...
-KAY
I'M SO GLAD...
...YOU'RE STILL ALIVE...!
カバ
ばっ
(HUG)
BAKU
BAKU (BADUM)
OHHH, THANK GOODNESS! THANK GOODNESS, WAYNE-KUN
GUSU (SNIFFLE)
GUSU

GUESS I'VE GOTTA GET A PIECE OF THIS ACTION TOO!
GAH HAH HA.
AND I WAS JUST ABOUT TO HIT UP EVERY LAST TASTY SPOT IN TOWN.
OF ALL THE...
WE'RE TAKING BACK OUR PRIMA-VERA!!
ARGHHH!! BRING IT ON!!
THAT HAUGHTY BITCH IS ABOUT TO GET A TASTE OF HER OWN MEDICINE.
U-FU...
...HOW-EVER.
NIYA
GRIND
NIYA
AS A MONEY LENDER, I CANNOT IN GOOD FAITH MAKE SUCH A RISKY INVESTMENT.
...FOR GOODNESS' SAKE...

...I WILL GLADLY PLAY THE LOANSHARK FOR THIS HIGH-RISK, HIGH-RETURN DREAM OF A VENTURE.
IF THERE IS A POSSIBILITY MY INVESTMENT WILL PROVIDE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION ...
COME ON, ROSE! FIRST STEP'S TAKING DOWN CALEB!
BUT YOU, YOU REALLY STOLE THE SHOW WITH THAT ENTRANCE. WHERE'S THE LITTLE PUP WE USED TO KNOW?
THAT'S MY MAN!
G-GET OFF! STOP RUBBING MY HEAD!!
EVERY-ONE...
OUR REAL WORK STARTS ONCE THAT'S DONE!!

YES!
PLEASE JOIN ME IN MAKING A NEW PRIMAVERA. ONE THAT PROTECTS OUR COUNTRY-MEN!
WE'LL FIGHT TOGETHER!

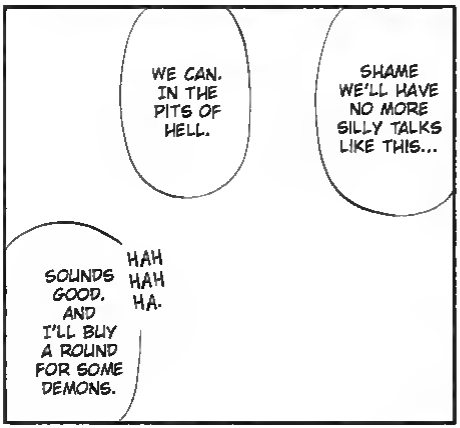
KATAN (STAND)
カタン
KARAN (JANGLE)
カラン
KARAN
カラン
HI, DARLING.
WHAT WAS IT YOU NEEDED TO SEE ME ABOUT?
GI (CHEEK)
GORI (SCOFF)

HEH...
...WE'RE BOTH GETTING OLD, YOU KNOW.
ALL THIS FIGHTING, SHOUTING, RUNNING ABOUT...
TO SAY NOTHING OF CHANGING WHERE WE LAY OUR HEADS EACH NIGHT. IT'S TOO MUCH.
...IT AIN'T SO BAD IF YOU CARRY AROUND YOUR FAVORITE PILLOW.
SUCH A FAITHFUL MAN... DID YOU REALLY DO WHAT I SAID?
I DON'T TEND TO LISTEN TO MEN, BUT WOMEN ARE A DIFFERENT STORY.

FU-FU... SO I GET TO JOIN THE RANKS OF YOUR WOMEN? HOW LOVELY.
PLENTY HAVE COME AND DIED BEFORE YOU, BUT THERE'LL BE NO ONE ELSE WHEN YOU'RE GONE.
YOU'RE MY LAST WOMAN.

OH, FLATTERY WILL GET YOU EVERY-WHERE.
AND I'VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITHFULLY HONORING WHATEVER MY WOMEN HAVE TO SAY.

IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT TO THINK OF IT.
DOES THAT MEAN WE'LL BE DYING TOGETHER, THEN?


WE CAN. IN THE PITS OF HELL.
SHAME WE'LL HAVE NO MORE SILLY TALKS LIKE THIS...
HAH HAH HA.
SOUNDS GOOD. AND I'LL BUY A ROUND FOR SOME DEMONS.

...THANK YOU...
OF ALL YOUR SWEET NOTHINGS, I LIKE THIS ONE THE MOST...

YES. FROM THE WAY THE GIRLS ARE ACTING, THIS IS ALL HAPPENING SOON...
...ANYWAY, LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE STAYING AT THE CLUB.
...AND WAYNE AND THE OTHERS WOULD HAVE ALREADY REUNITED WITH ROSE.
SORRY FOR TROUBLING YOU...
I JUST WENT OUT FOR A DATE WITH MY BODYGUARDS.
NOT AT ALL.
...HEY, CALEB.
YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH TO COME THIS FAR, TAKEN ON EVERY CHALLENGE ...
...BUT THERE'S ONE THING YOU'VE NEVER TRIED... DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS?
...I'M GLAD YOU DID...
OH? JEALOUS, ARE WE?
HEE HEE.

RUNNING AWAY.
HUH...? NO CLUE.
DOESN'T THAT SOUND LOVELY?
...AND PUTTING THIS TOWN BEHIND US WITH NOTHING BUT A SINGLE SUITCASE.
THROWING AWAY RESPONSIBILITY, IDEALS, ALL THAT NASTY BUSINESS ...
...DOES SOUND FUN, I GOTTA SAY...

NO CAN DO.
...BUT SORRY.
AND I NEVER PLANNED TO LIVE LONG, MYSELF.
I'VE SACRIFICED TOO MUCH FOR THOSE IDEALS AND RESPONSI-BILITIES.
YOU CAN AT LEAST GRANT ME THAT MUCH, NO?
...HOW ABOUT A DRINK WITH ME, THEN?
...I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.
...SUCH DETERMINA-TION...IT'S DOWNRIGHT NONSENSICAL.
SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT HERE.
A GOOD LONG DRINK NEXT TIME.
WELL...
HEH HEH... THAT, COMING FROM YOU?
WITH THIS, WE'LL BOTH BE TAKING RESPONSI-BILITY.

GISHI
GISHI (CREAK)
...AND WHY DID YOU CALL ME...
...YOU BOORISH MAN?
KARAN (JANGLE)
...YOU'RE A CRUEL WOMAN...
KARAN

FOOLISH MAN...
SA CSKRTCHO
THIS IS A COMPLETE LIST OF THE HOTELS USED BY CALEB.
HE ONLY REMAINS AT ANY GIVEN LOCATION FOR ONE TO THREE DAYS.
MIGUEL USED TO CHOOSE THE HOTEL AND LENGTH OF STAY BASED ON HIS INTUITION.
THEY'VE BECOME EASIER TO TRACK, YES.
THE LOSS OF CALEB'S CONFIDANT HAS HAD LARGE REPERCUSSIONS, YES.
HOWEVER, IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN LONGER AND LONGER STAYS.
THE OPTIMAL SITE FOR THIS OPERATION IS HERE...
Hotel Tokyo
Royal Tower Hotel
Hotel 銀座

IT'S THE FARTHEST HOTEL FROM PRIMA-VERA.
Bayleton Plaza Hotel
Tower Hote
THE BAYLETON PLAZA HOTEL.
...JAMES TOMITAKE-SAN.
...REMIND ME AGAIN WHY WE SHOULD TRUST YOU...
SO EVEN THOUGH WE'RE PREPPED TO HELL, ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS WAIT FOR CALEB TO MOVE...
BUT WE'LL ONLY KNOW HE'S MOVING THERE IMMEDIATELY BEFORE HE ACTUALLY DOES?
RIGHT. WE'RE MONITORING THE PLACE. THE ONLY WAY TO BE SURE IS TO SEE HIM IN PERSON.
...HOWEVER ...
...AND THERE WAS ZERO OPPOSITION TO CALEB'S TAKEOVER.
THEY SAY THAT BECAUSE OF JAMES'S COWARDICE, THE FORCES IN DISTRICT 23 WERE UNABLE TO STAND TOGETHER...
JAMES IS THE HEAD OF THE FIRST CRIME FAMILY TO SUBMIT TO CALEB WHEN THE LATTER TOOK OVER THE UNDERWORLD HERE.

AS A CASINO OWNER, YOU'RE SOMETHING OF A GAMBLER YOURSELF, NO?
YOU HAVE A KNACK FOR JUDGING THE GAME AND SEEING TEN STEPS AHEAD...
KACHA (CLICK)
カチャ
...YES, I AM A COWARD.
...THAT'S WHY...
...I'VE NEVER RISKED MY LIFE BACKING THE WRONG HORSE.
I PRIDE MYSELF ON THAT.
THE LIEUTENANTS I'VE BROUGHT ALONG ALL HAVE BONES TO PICK WITH CALEB.
I ONLY CHOSE THOSE I WAS SURE I COULD TRUST.
FOR THEIR OWN SAKES, THEY'LL DO WHATEVER THEY CAN TO ASSIST.
WELL ...

LET'S MAKE SURE WE'VE ALL GOT THE WHOLE PLAN DRILLED INTO OUR HEADS.
CAN WE KEEP THE VIOLENCE TO A MINIMUM?
I RECEIVED THE GHQ'S CONSENT BY BRANDING THIS A MASSIVE TAKEDOWN OF ORGANIZED CRIME.
ON PAPER, THE MILITARY POLICE IS MERELY WORKING TO PRESERVE THE PUBLIC ORDER.
YES.
WE WILL DO OUR UTMOST TO PRESERVE YOUR IMAGE, CAPTAIN.
UNTIL THEN, WE'LL SPLIT UP AND WAIT. SOME WILL GO TO THE CAPTAIN'S SAFE-HOUSE, OTHERS TO MEIJIU'S.
SO WE'RE NOT SURE WHEN THIS'LL BE DOWN
JUST THAT IT HAPPENS WHEN CALEB SHOWS HIS FACE AT THE BAYLETON PLAZA HOTEL
COULD BE A MATTER OF DAYS. COULD BE A WHOLE MONTH. NO WAY TO KNOW

GO (RUMBLE)
GO
GO
GO
GO
HOW TIRE-SOME...
TOO MUCH TO HANDLE, GRANNY?
GYUHH (SHOVE)
EACH TEAM WILL ENJOY SPECIAL DINNERS WHILE WE HIDE OUT.
GI (STRAIN)
GI
GI
GI
GI
GI
ANY-HOW!
LOOK FORWARD TO IT, YES!
I WILL BE TREATING LEO'S TEAM TO CHINESE CUISINE, YES!

I GOTTA DOUBT THE TASTE OF WHOEVER WHIPPED UP THAT ONE.
COME ON.
DON'T LIKE CHINESE? EVEN WITH THAT PEPPER BEEF-LOOKING FACE OF YOURS?
I NEVER BELIEVED THAT CORPSE WAS YOU, Y'KNOW!
HAH-HAH-HA! ANY FOOD'S A FEAST SO LONG AS YOU'RE ALIVE!
GUH... I HATE CHINESE FOOD.
YEAH, WELL, I'LL MAKE YOUR FACE INTO CHOPPED MEAT, OLD MAN!!

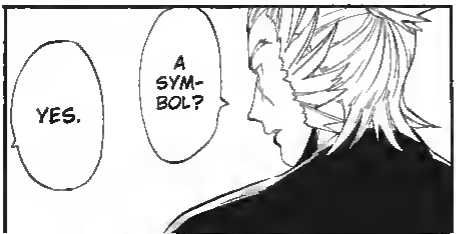
HO!
IT COULD BE A MONTH BEFORE CALEB SHOWS, AND THEN WE'LL ALL HAVE BEER GUTS!
JUST THROW IN A FEW BARRELS OF BEER AND I'LL BE FINE!
YOU KIDDING US!? WE GOT THE SHORT END HERE!!
GYAAA (SQUABBLE)
GYAAA
HEY, RICHARD! DOESN'T THAT CHINESE FEAST SOUND GOOD NOW!?

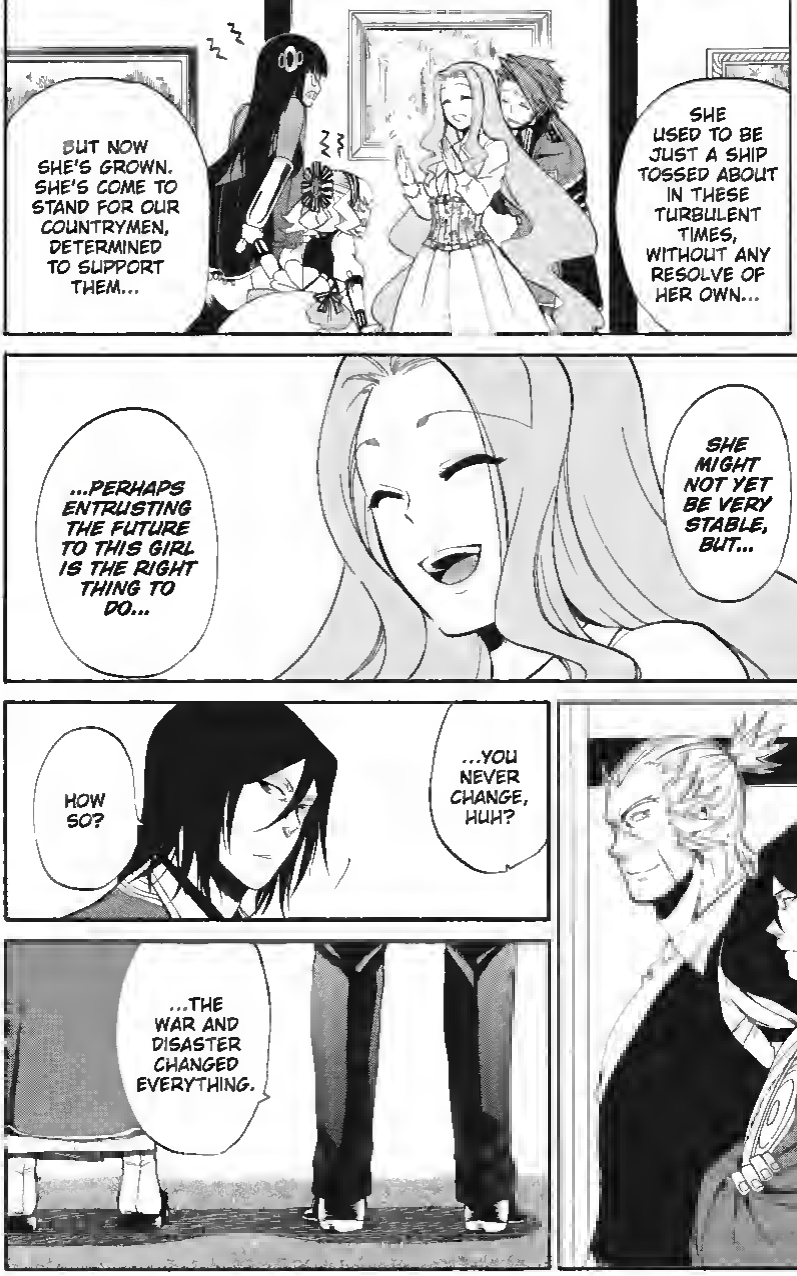
IN THE INTEREST OF COST-CUTTING...
I'M PAYING TO FEED CYRUS'S TEAM OUT OF POCKET SO...
...I HOPE STEW AND SANDWICHES ARE GOOD ENOUGH...

I-I'LL DO MY BEST...
AT LEAST GIVE US SALADS AND A DRINK BAR, CAPTAIN...
WOW, YOU TWO--
YOU REFUSING US, YOU BASTARD?

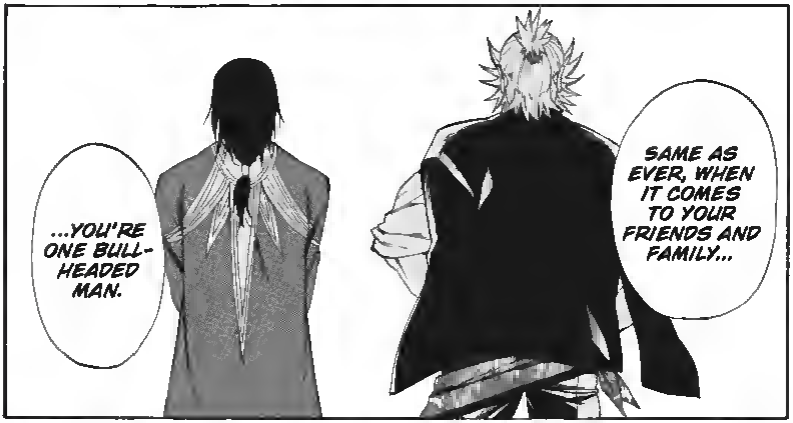
...ROSE WAS LIKE A SYMBOL FOR US JAPANESE.
...AT OUR LOWEST...

KOTSU (STEP)
...DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR THEIR SPUNK TO RETURN.
YES, INDEED...
HARD TO BELIEVE WE WERE ALL DOWN ON OUR LUCK SO RECENTLY


A SYM-BOL?
YES.

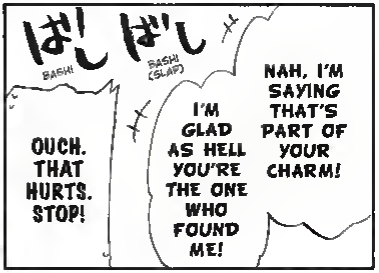

SHE USED TO BE JUST A SHIP TOSSED ABOUT IN THESE TURBULENT TIMES, WITHOUT ANY RESOLVE OF HER OWN...
BUT NOW SHE'S GROWN. SHE'S COME TO STAND FOR OUR COUNTRYMEN, DETERMINED TO SUPPORT THEM...
SHE MIGHT NOT YET BE VERY STABLE, BUT...
...PERHAPS ENTRUSTING THE FUTURE TO THIS GIRL IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO...
...YOU NEVER CHANGE, HUH?
HOW SO?
...THE WAR AND DISASTER CHANGED EVERYTHING.

BUT I WAS WRONG ABOUT THAT.
...THERE WAS A TIME I WAS SURE THEY CHANGED YOU TOO.


...YOU'RE ONE BULL-HEADED MAN.
SAME AS EVER, WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY...

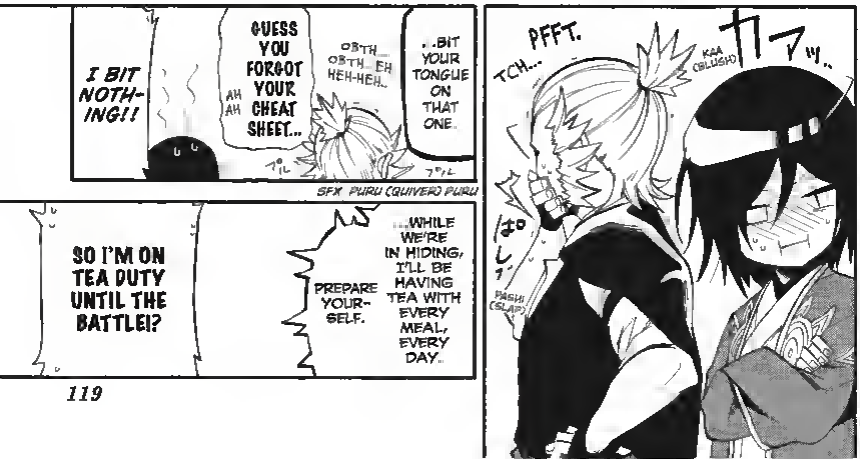
...IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU, I MIGHT'VE WOUND UP YOUR ENEMY.
?

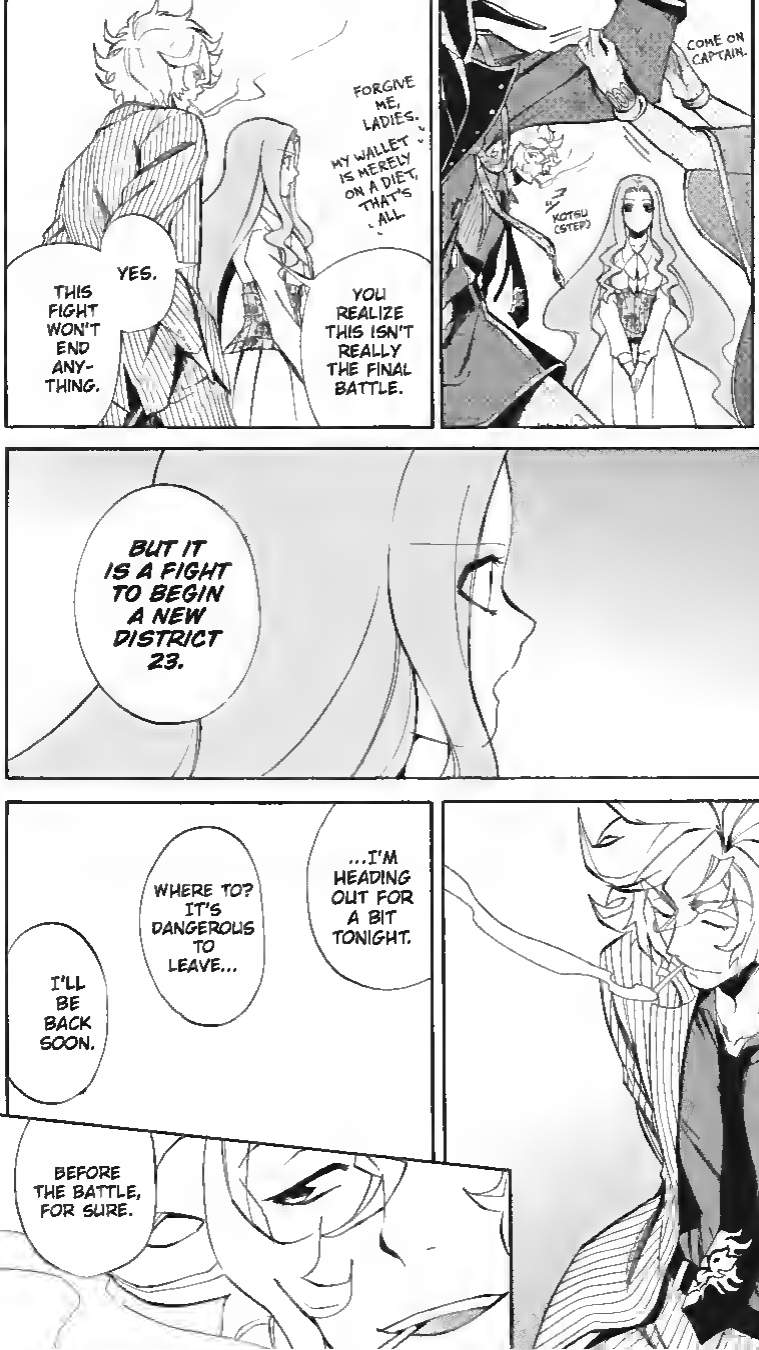
...THAT HARDLY SOUNDS COMPLI-MENTARY.


ばしばし
BASHI
BASHI (SLAP)
OUCH. THAT HURTS. STOP!
I'M GLAD AS HELL YOU'RE THE ONE WHO FOUND ME!
NAH, I'M SAYING THAT'S PART OF YOUR CHARM!

TO THE COUNTRY, SOCIETY, AND EVEN OTHER JAPANESE, WE SOLDIERS WERE BLACK SHEEP...
WE HAD NO FRIENDS OR FAMILY TO GO TO FOR FOOD AND SHELTER.
AND IN THAT LOW, DARK PLACE, ANYONE WHO PICKED US UP AND SHOWED US HOW TO LIVE WOULD SEEM LIKE THE BUDDHA HIMSELF.
WHETHER HE BE GOOD OR EVIL...
...HONESTLY, I CAN'T SAY I OPPOSE WHAT CALEB'S DOING.
IF YOU HADN'T COME ALONG, I'D PROBABLY BE WITH THE MAFIA NOW.
I'D BE JUST THE KIND OF GUY HE'S HOPING TO SAVE.
...WHOEVER FOUND US FIRST...
...IS REALLY WHAT DETERMINED OUR FATE...
...I SEE.
SHALL I THROW YOU OUT, THEN?

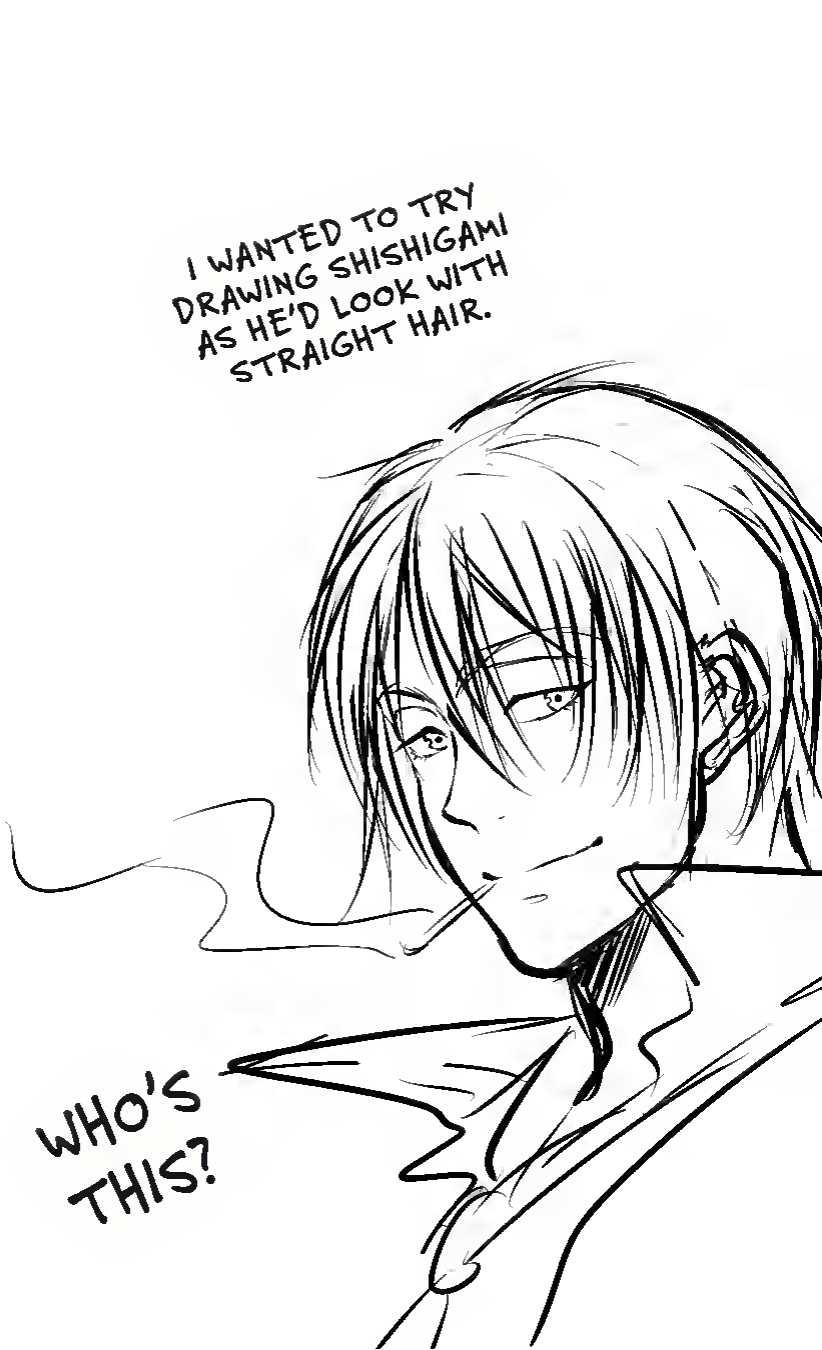
...NO, I COULDN'T.
I WASN'T SAYING YOUR BULL-HEADEDNESS IS A BAD THING ALL RIGHT?
HA (FWIP)
EH!?
H-HEY, NOW.
SO THEY'RE NOT MINE TO DISPOSE OBTH.
ALL I DID WAS WELCOME BACK MY ALLIES RETURNING FROM THE WAR.


I BIT NOTHING!!
GUESS YOU FORGOT YOUR CHEAT SHEET...
AH AH
OBTH OBTH EH HEH-HEH...
...BIT YOUR TONGUE ON THAT ONE.
SFX: PURU (QUIVER) PURU
SO I'M ON TEA DUTY UNTIL THE BATTLE!?
PREPARE YOURSELF.
...WHILE WE'RE IN HIDING, I'LL BE HAVING TEA WITH EVERY MEAL, EVERY DAY.
PFFT.
TCH...
KAA (BLUSH)
PASH! (SLAP)


COME ON CAPTAIN.
KOTSU (STEP)
FORGIVE ME, LADIES.
MY WALLET IS MERELY ON A DIET, THAT'S ALL.
YES.
THIS FIGHT WON'T END ANY-THING.
YOU REALIZE THIS ISN'T REALLY THE FINAL BATTLE.
BUT IT IS A FIGHT TO BEGIN A NEW DISTRICT 23.
...I'M HEADING OUT FOR A BIT TONIGHT.
WHERE TO? IT'S DANGEROUS TO LEAVE...
I'LL BE BACK SOON.
BEFORE THE BATTLE, FOR SURE.

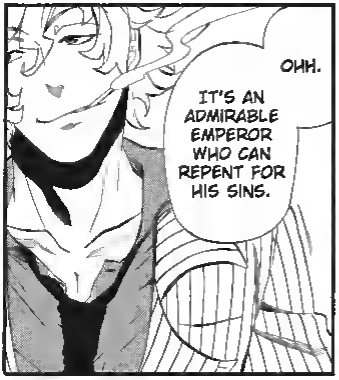
THERE'S JUST A BROTHER I WANNA TREAT TO A DRINK OR TWO...
...YOU'RE AWFULLY RECKLESS FOR A WANTED M...N...

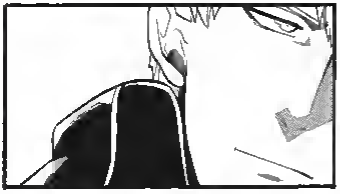
JAKU
CHACHAKO
...
LEO
...
AND
YOU'RE JUST
ASKING TO BE
ASSASSINATED,
WANDERING
AROUND OUT
HERE...
...
CALEB.
GAGAN
GALAKO


I WANTED TO TRY DRAWING SHISHIGAMI AS HE'D LOOK WITH STRAIGHT HAIR.
WHO'S THIS?

...YOU'RE AWFULLY RECKLESS FOR A WANTED MAN, LEO.
AND YOU'RE JUST ASKING TO BE ASSASSINATED, WANDERING AROUND OUT HERE, CALEB.
GAGAN CHIAKU
カ"カ"ン

...SEE. LIKE I SAID.


OHH.
IT'S AN ADMIRABLE EMPEROR WHO CAN REPENT FOR HIS SINS.



DOSA (THUD)

HAH HA
HA HA HA!
Scene: 18

KOTSU (STEP)
KOTSU
SO IT WAS YOU, THEN.
WHAT WAS ME?

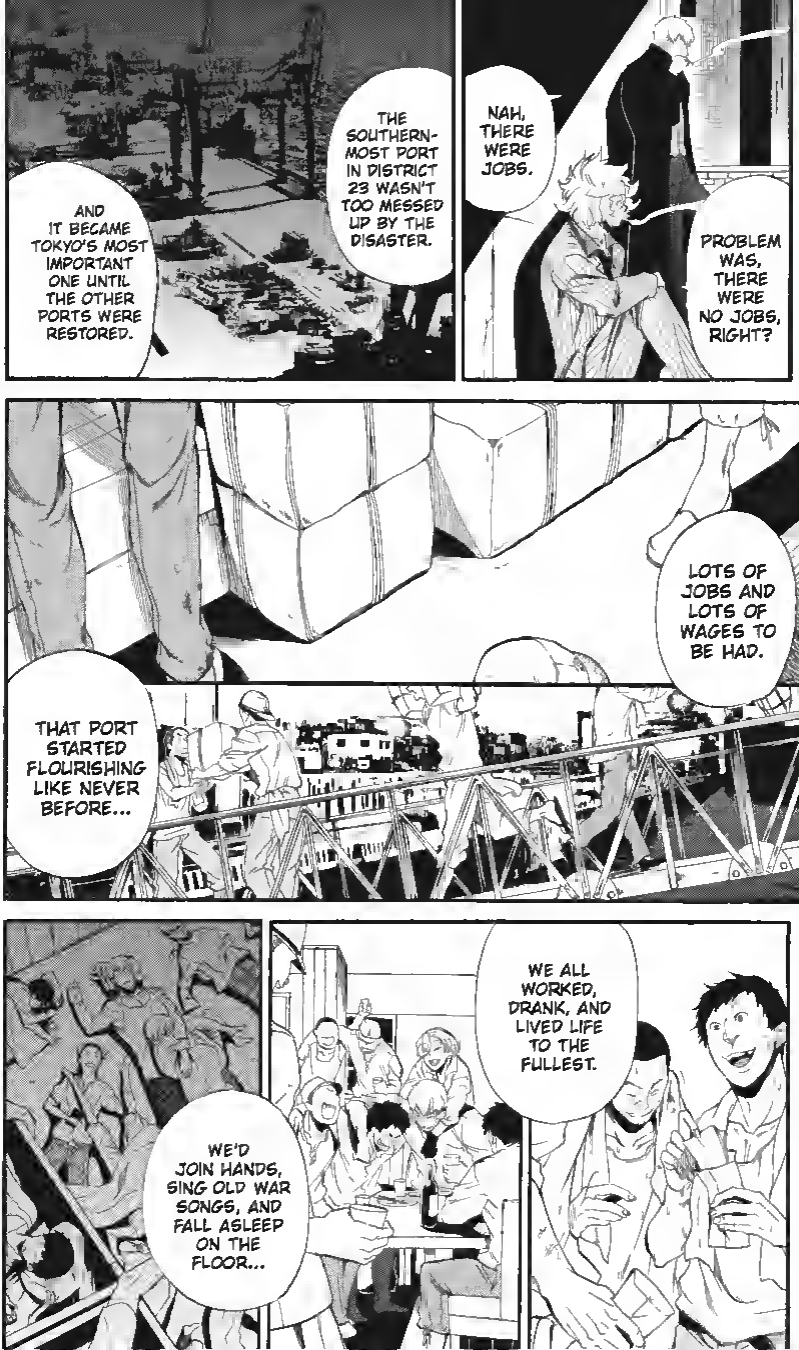
I HEARD THIS RUMOR.
THEY SAY THERE'S A NIGHT GHOST LEAVING SMOKES IN PLACE OF INCENSE FOR THE DEAD.
I WAS SURE IT HAD TO BE YOU, CALEB.
I'M OFF THE CLOCK NOW.
SO CALL ME KEIREIJI, LEO.
LONG AS YOU CALL ME SHISHIGAMI.

SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT ALL THIS?
HEH HEH HEH...
NAH, JUST THE BIT ABOUT ME BEING A GHOST.
KIND OF LIKE THE GUYS YOU HANG AROUND WITH.
GHOSTS AIN'T SO RARE NOWADAYS. YOU CAN FIND ONE AROUND EVERY CORNER.
THEY'RE NOT WRONG.
I'M LIKE A GHOST WHO CAN'T LIVE OR DIE PROPERLY.
HEH...
AND DEALING WITH THEM IS TOUGH, CONSIDERING I MADE THEM THAT WAY.
THEY ALL FORGOT HOW TO DIE BACK ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.
NOW THEY CRAVE ANNIHILA-TION.

YOU DID?
FULLL CBLOWD
THAT FAMILY AND PEOPLE WHO CARED WERE WAITING FOR THEM...
THAT THERE WOULD BE FOOD, CLOTHES, BEDS, AND TREATMENT FOR THEIR WOUNDS...
THAT THEY COULD GET RIGHT BACK TO THEIR OLD LIVES...
THAT'S WHAT I TOLD THEM. SO THOSE WHO MIGHT'VE BEEN HAPPIER TO DIE KEPT FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES...
I'D KEPT THEM ALIVE...
I GET THAT...
BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH THINKING YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR THEM?
...IT WASN'T AS PURE AS "I WANT THEM TO LIVE" THOUGH...

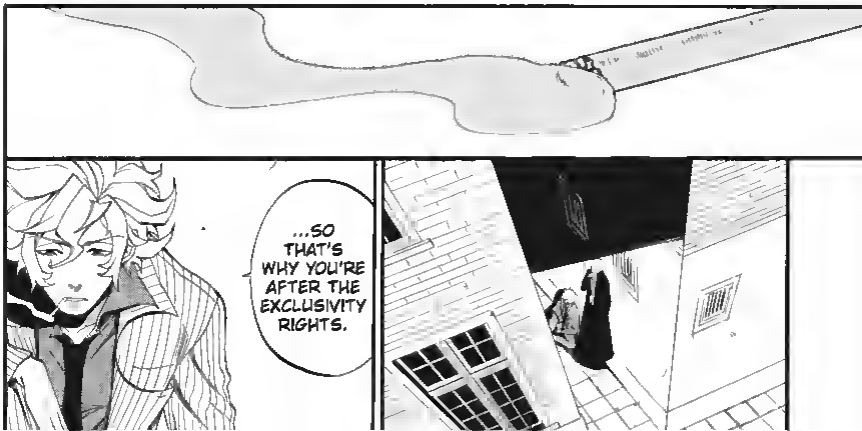
...I JUST COULDN'T ENDURE...
...SEEING MY MEN DIE, ONE AFTER THE OTHER...
I JUST...
... COULDN'T BEAR IT.
THEN THEY GET HOME AND FIND NOTHING OF THEIR OLD LIVES.
JUST A LIFE OF DEATH AND MADNESS. A NEW HELL, DIFFERENT FROM THE BATTLE-FIELD...
...THE GUYS GETTING OFF THE SHIPS WITH NO ONE TO GREET THEM—THEIR FACES...

I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT SIGHT...
...IT JUST FELT TOO IRRESPON-SIBLE...
...TO HAVE SAID EVERY-THING WOULD BE WAITING FOR THEM...
...BUT...
...WITH ENOUGH MONEY, THEY COULD AT LEAST HAVE DECENT LIVES.


THE SOUTHERN-MOST PORT IN DISTRICT 23 WASN'T TOO MESSED UP BY THE DISASTER.
AND IT BECAME TOKYO'S MOST IMPORTANT ONE UNTIL THE OTHER PORTS WERE RESTORED.
NAH, THERE WERE JOBS.
PROBLEM WAS, THERE WERE NO JOBS, RIGHT?
LOTS OF JOBS AND LOTS OF WAGES TO BE HAD.
THAT PORT STARTED FLOURISHING LIKE NEVER BEFORE...
WE ALL WORKED, DRANK, AND LIVED LIFE TO THE FULLEST.
WE'D JOIN HANDS, SING OLD WAR SONGS, AND FALL ASLEEP ON THE FLOOR...

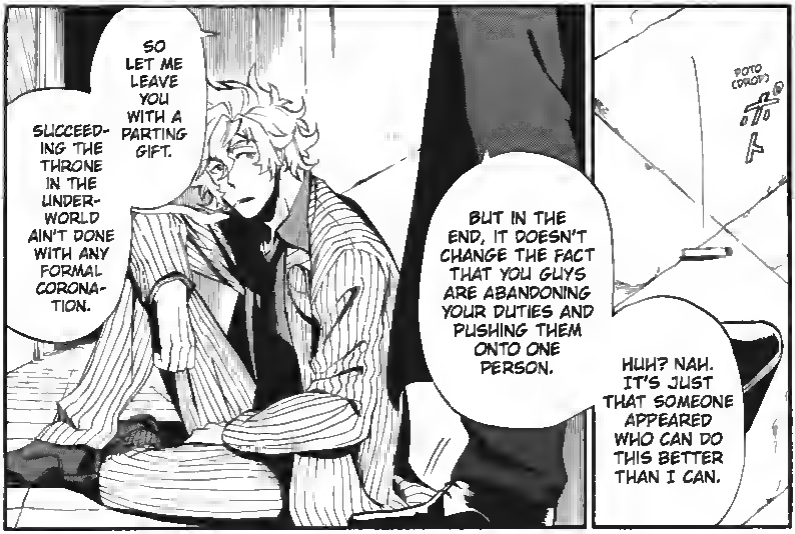
NICE...
WISH I COULD'VE JOINED YOU.
THOSE WERE THE DAYS, I TELL YOU...
...BUT...
...IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE FOREIGN VENDORS AND AMERICAN MAFIA STARTED TAKING KICKBACKS.
...EVERYONE WOULD END UP ON THE STREETS...
AND UNLESS SOMEONE STOOD UP TO THEM...

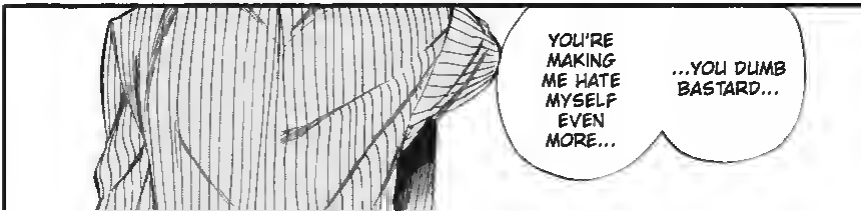
I'M GONNA TAKE BACK THOSE BASTARDS' LIVES FOR THEM...
I'M GONNA... END THEIR GODDAMN WAR...!!


...SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE AFTER THE EXCLUSIVITY RIGHTS.

TO IMMEDIATELY GET BACK THE LIVES THEY LOST...
I'VE KEPT THEM ALIVE ON MY SELFISH AND IRRESPONSIBLE HOPE...
...MAKING THEM SUFFER. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I KNOW HOW TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY...
FUUU (BLOW)
SO THE REASON YOU GAVE AT THE CLUB...THAT WAS JUST FOR SHOW?
THREE DAYS FROM NOW.
?
NAH, THAT WAS ALL TRUE. WHY WOULD I HAVE HELPED YOUR ASS OTHERWISE?
AT THE BAYLETON PLAZA HOTEL.
THAT'S THE PLACE I'D CHOOSE, IF I WERE YOU.

...YOU... FROM THE VERY START...
I DIDN'T PUT BOUNTIES ON YOUR HEADS SO YOU COULD HUNKER DOWN IN THOSE COMFORTABLE SAFEHOUSES FOREVER.
MAKE YOUR PREPARATIONS.


SO LET ME LEAVE YOU WITH A PARTING GIFT.
SUCCEEDING THE THRONE IN THE UNDERWORLD AIN'T DONE WITH ANY FORMAL CORONATION.
BUT IN THE END, IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU GUYS ARE ABANDONING YOUR DUTIES AND PUSHING THEM ONTO ONE PERSON.
HUH? NAH. IT'S JUST THAT SOMEONE APPEARED WHO CAN DO THIS BETTER THAN I CAN.
POTO
COROW


YOU'RE MAKING ME HATE MYSELF EVEN MORE...
...YOU DUMB BASTARD...

KOTSU
コツ
KOTSU
コツ
YOU SURE? WHY PLAY MY LITTLE GAME INSTEAD OF KILLING ME RIGHT HERE AND NOW?
CAN'T AFFORD TO LET YOU GET IN MY HEAD ANY MORE THAN THIS.
SEE YA.
KOTSU
コツ
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHY WOULD I KILL KEIREIJI, MY BROTHER-IN-ARMS?
KOTSU
コツ
HEH HEH HEH...

HAH HAH HAH HAH HAH HA!
IS HE EVEN TRYING TO HIDE...?
AH.
...I LET HIM TREAT ME. AGAIN.

PATAN (CLOSE)
KYAH-HA... IT WAS OBVIOUS.
...GOOD JOB FINDING ME HERE...

THIS IS WHERE WE STARTED THE PORT WORKERS' GUILD. WE HAD SO MUCH FUN. EVERYONE WAS SO ALIVE.
YOU PLANNING TO DRINK AWAY YOUR FINAL NIGHTS, ALONE? WITH YOUR OLD MEMORIES AS AN APPE-TIZER?
I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOUR EVERY MOVE.
THIS IS WHERE IT ALL STARTED. I KNOW YOU PREFER THIS BEAT-UP OLD SOFA TO ANY FEATHER BED.
GOTO
GOTO (RATTLE)
GOTO

THIS POTATO SHOCHU'S TASTING LIKE PISS.
UGH. DISGUST-ING.
GOTO

ANO THAT MEANS YOU CAN'T ORDER ME AROUND.
I'LL PASS.☆ I'M NOT IN THE CALEB FAMILY ANY-MORE.
YOU JUST COME HERE TO GET DRUNK AND TALK NONSENSE?
GET OUTTA MY FACE.

I SAID, GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE!!
YOU LITTLE SHIT!!
DOKA
DOKA (STOMP)
DOGA (SLAM)
S-SORRY.
THAT WAS TOO MUCH...
AH.
UHH...
NNN...

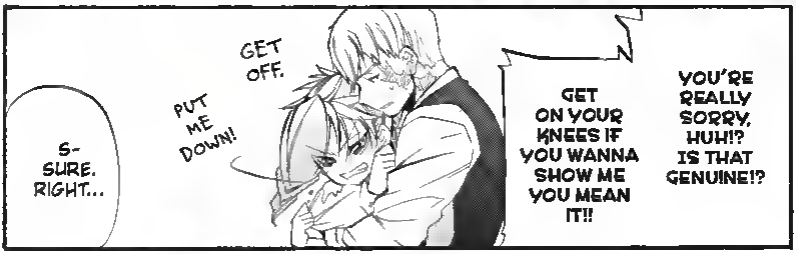
TSUKAA (STEP)
BASHIN (SLAP)
THOSE NAILS! THAT HURTS!
BASHIN
CUT IT OUT...
GARI (SCRATCH)
BASHI
PISHARI (WHACK)
THE HELL...!
OUCH. OUCH!
BASHI
BASHIN
BAN
BASHIN

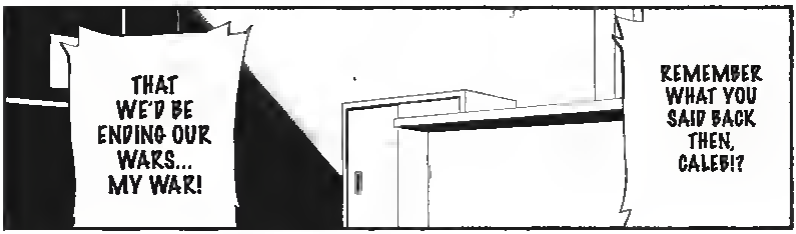
HIC.
HIC...
...MI...
...GUEL...
YOU.
HIC
CALEB, YOU DUMMY!! YOU GREAT, DUMB, DUMMY!!
...C-CALL ME STUPID ALL YOU WANT, BUT...
LIAR? I CAN'T LET THAT SLIDE...
BUT I WAS AN ELITE, THOUGH I MIGHT NOT LOOK IT...
I KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS, YOUR GOALS... I KNOW IT ALL!!
NO, BUT YOU ARE A LIAR!!
YOU'RE A BIG FAT LIAR!!

BUT YOU MADE A PROMISE. YOU PROMISED!!
I WAS HAPPY... I WAS SO HAPPY!!
I DON'T WANNA LIVE IN A WORLD WITHOUT YOU. I CAN'T!
IF YOU CARE ABOUT ME AT ALL, DON'T BREAK THAT PROMISE, YOU DUMMY!!
AND IF YOU DO BREAK IT... I DON'T CARE. GO ON.
DIE ALONE ...!
AND I'LL FOLLOW CLOSE BEHIND!
I WON'T CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE. DON'T WORRY.
KA (STEP)
KA
SO GOOD-BYE!!
GA (CLICK)

GON (CLUNK)
GORD (CRUNK)
GORD
GORD
GET OFF.
GET OFF ME!!
GA
GET OFF ME, DUMMY!!
YOU'RE DYING ALONE, RIGHT!?
IT'S NOT THAT I FORGOT MY PROMISE TO YOU...
...I'M SORRY, MIGUEL...

BUT I'M SORRY. FORGIVE ME...
THAT WAS SELF-RIGHTEOUS OF ME...
GYU (GRIP)
BUT, WELL...
I DIDN'T WANT TO STEAL AWAY THE LIFE YOU'VE STILL GOT LEFT...
GON (WHACK)
GO
GET OFF. I HATE YOU!!
GA (KICK)
GA

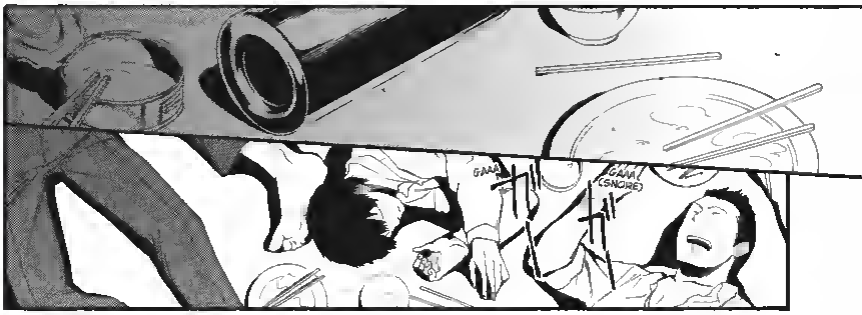

S-SURE. RIGHT...
PUT ME DOWN!
GET OFF.
GET ON YOUR KNEES IF YOU WANNA SHOW ME YOU MEAN IT!!
YOU'RE REALLY SORRY, HUH!? IS THAT GENUINE!?


THAT WE'D BE ENDING OUR WARS... MY WAR!
REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID BACK THEN, CALEB!?

SO I COULD NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR BREAKING THAT PROMISE AGAIN!!
BUT MY WAR... IT'S PART OF YOURS.
WE'VE GOT TO END YOURS TO END MINE!!
I'M LIKE A WHIPPED HUSBAND
GASH! (RUB)
GASH!
...YES, YES, I'VE GOT IT.
I'M NO MATCH FOR YOU...
NEXT TIME IT'LL MEAN A THOUSAND SLAPS. NO, TEN THOUSAND SLAPS!
YOU GOT IT!?
Y-YEAH...
I WAS SO LONELY, CRYING ALONE IN THE DARK... ..DRY THROAT, PUFFY EYES, MAKEUP RUNNING EVERY WHERE
YOU KNOW WHERE I'VE BEEN THIS WHOLE TIME? IN A BOMB SHELTER A BOMB SHELTER!! YOU HEAR ME!?
SAY, "YES"!!
YES...
AHH. ALL THIS SHOUTING'S DRIED ME OUT. BUT A DRINK SHOULD FIX THAT.
A DRINK... THERE'S BARELY ANY LEFT.
EVEN THOUGH I'D HID IT AWAY...
NO PROBLEM. WE'LL WATER IT DOWN.
SFX: KOTSU (STEP) KOTSU
HOW MUCH WATER?
6:1 RATIO, I'M THINKING.
SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.

BETTER MAKE IT ONE DROP OF BOOZE TO TEN PARTS WATER.
GACHA (OPEN)
OOF.
DOSA (THUD)
DOSA
GAH!!
...
HAAH...
...YOU JERKS...
TRYING TO HIDE, WERE YOU? ☆
N-NO, UM, THIS IS, WELL...
YOU OUGHTA RESPECT YOUR ELDERS...
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!

CHIN
CLINK


GAAA
GAAA (SNORE)

SORRY... ABOUT YOUR SHOULDER.
HMM?

WHATEVER. I MANAGED TO ESCAPE WITHOUT A HOLE IN MY HEAD.
WITHOUT YOU, MY DEATH WOULD'VE COME A LOT SOONER.
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN THE AMERICANS WOULDN'T COOPERATE.
BY THE TIME WE REALIZED THOUGH, THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY TO FOIL THEM.
THAT'S RIGHT. SO NO MORE LEAVING ME BEHIND. ☆
YEAH, YEAH.
WHAT DID I SAY THE ANSWER SHOULD BE...?
...YES.
WE KNOW WE CAN'T TRUST BUTLER.
BUT IS IT OKAY TO HAVE HANDED OVER HALF?
RIGHT. BUT IT WAS ALL AS PLANNED.
IT'LL BE FINE.
AH!
WAIT, THAT'S ...
GOKU (GULP)
BA (GRAB)
GOKU
GOKUN
HMPH ...

...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL NEVER GET TO HAVE A DRINK TOGETHER.
コン KON (CLUNK)
MADAM AMANDA IS A MEMBER OF THE CALEB FAMILY.

...DID YOU NOTICE, CALEB?
YEAH.

GASH!
がし
ACK! YOU'RE RUINING MY HAIR...
GASH! (RUB)
がし
GASH!
がし

COME ON!

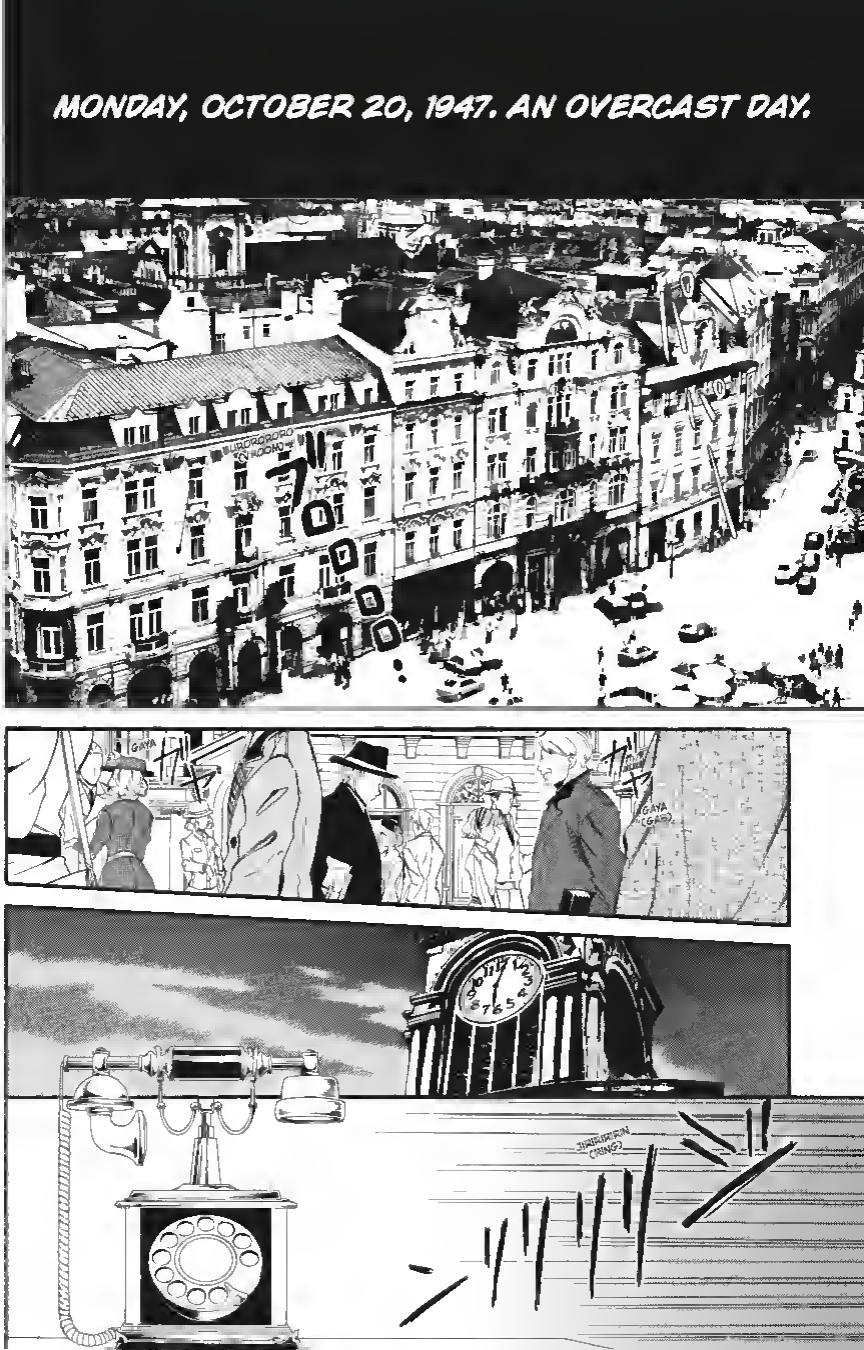
SNORE
SNORE
DO ANYTHING NOT LIKE YOU, AND THEY'LL BE THE FIRST TO NOTICE.
THEY KNOW YOU WELL.
IT'S YOUR FORMER MEN. AND THE GUYS YOU'VE HELPED OFF THE STREETS SINCE THEY GOT BACK.
THEY ALL SEEM TO KNOW.
ZZZ
SEEMS THAT WAY, YEAH...

YOU'RE GREEDY, SO YOU TRY TO TAKE ON MORE BAGGAGE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE.
...I'VE ALWAYS BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW...

BECAUSE WE'LL BE THERE TO HELP PICK IT ALL UP.
SO DON'T LOOK BACK EVEN IF YOU'VE DROPPED SOMETHING.
...THOSE HANDS OF YOURS AREN'T AS BROAD AS YOU LIKE TO THINK.
BUT...

SO...
DON'T WORRY AND LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD.
.....
YOU AIN'T TELLING ME TO BE LESS GREEDY?
NO, I LIKE YOU GREEDY.
FORGET ME! TAKE CARE OF THIS ONE!
COLONEL, YOU NEED MEDICAL ATTENTION...!
THAT'S WHAT ENDED UP SAVING ME.
AND THAT'S MADE ME SO HAPPY.
I CAN'T LET ANYONE ELSE DIE...!

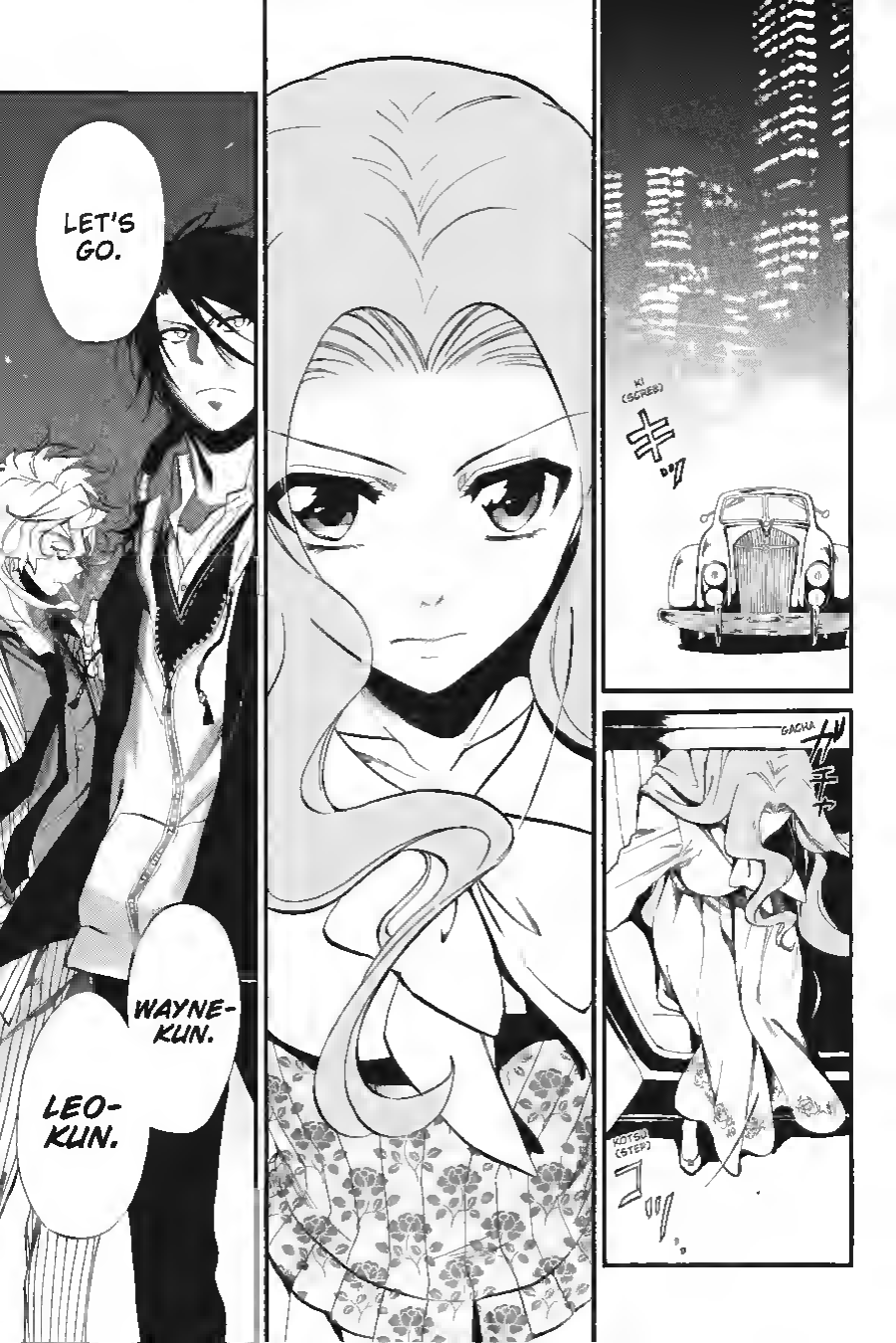
THANK YOU.
SOUHEI.
FU-FU.
ANYWAY, THIS IS HARDLY ALCOHOL WE'RE DRINKING AT THIS POINT. SO BLAND.
...YOU'RE RIGHT...
POOR EXCUSE FOR BOOZE...


MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1947. AN OVERCAST DAY.
GAYA
GAYA (GAS)
JINGLING CRING

ALREADY!? WE'VE ONLY BEEN IN HIDING FOR THREE DAYS!!
CALL THE GIRLS AT THE CLUB, MERYL!!
CALEB'S SHOWN AT THE HOTEL!
GACHA (OPEN)
AND I WAS ONLY JUST GETTING SICK OF THE CAPTAIN'S HOME COOKING!
COME ON.
TIME TO CLIMB THE NEW HIGH MOUNTAIN ...!!
D-DON'T MOVE!!

DA
DA
DA
DA (CHIP)
MIGUEL-SAN'LL HAVE OUR HEADS IF WE CAN'T TAKE HER BACK!
WHAT DO WE PAY THOSE BODY-GUARDS FOR?
WHAAT!? MADAM AMANDA'S BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE!?
NO KIDDING! BETTER HURRY!
BAN
BAN (SLAM)
GACHA (THUNK)

HUH?
AH, STEW'S READY..
BA-DUM
CAPTAIN! THE MOBSTERS ARE HEADING FOR PRIMA-VERA!!
THIS IS MY TIME TO SHINE!!
ALL RIIIIGHT!
BA- (FWIP)
BURGRORRR (VROOM)


LET'S GO.
WAYNE-KUN.
LEO-KUN.
KI (SCREE)
GACHA
TOTSU (STEP)

COLONEL.
AS ORDERED, MORRIS'S SQUAD HAS BEEN DISPATCHED TO RESCUE MADAM AMANDA.
OHH.
THINGS ARE PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY.

KACHA (CLICK)
KACHIN (CHIME)
BASA (FLAP)

(STEP)
HOPE YOU'RE ALL PREPARED.
YOU GUYS.

ALL TROOPS.
READY YOUR BLADES.

WAYNE-KUN. LEO-KUN.
NO NEED TO HOLD BACK NOW.
GACHA (CHACHAK)
LET'S GO.
GAKU (GRASP)
IF WE CAN'T MEET THE CHALLENGE AHEAD, THEN I'M NOT SUITED...
GACHIN (CLICK)
Scence 19
...TO RULE DISTRICT 23.

Scene: 19

GAN GLAND
GANG
WHAT THE!?
DA DASH!
LET'S MOVE!!

SHIT. IT'S THE PRIMAVERA GANG!
DON OSCOHO
DON

LET FATHER KNOW AT ONCE!!
UGH!
WE'LL TAKE THE STAIRS! IF THEY CUT THE POWER WHILE WE'RE IN THE ELEVATOR, THAT'LL BE THE END!
SO WHERE'S CALEB!?
PROBABLY IN THE PENT-HOUSE SUITE!
I BET THEY'VE GIVEN HIM THE WHOLE FLOOR IN EXCHANGE FOR PROTECTION MONEY.

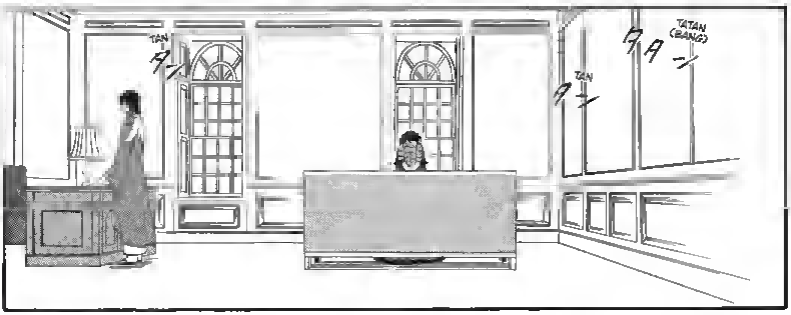
(PASSING)
RUN (WOOSH)
GO (WHAM)

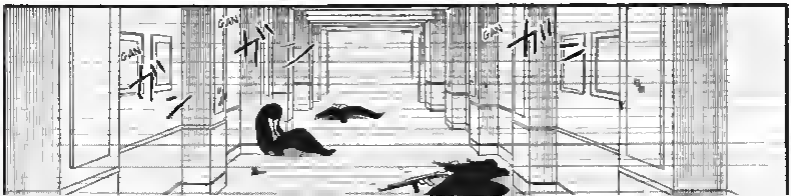
HYH (WHOOSH)
YEAH, GOT IT!
DA (TAP)
THE STAIRS TO THE LEFT, WAYNE-KUN!
DA
DA

DOGAN (KABOOM)
GA
GASHAN
GA
GA
GA (SLAM)
GASHAN (SMASH)
DUN (BOOM)
GAGAN (SLAM)
BAN
BAN (BANG)
BAN
BAN
COME ON! WE'VE PREPARED PLENTY OF LEAD FOR YOUR ENJOY-MENT!!
SHIT, WE'RE NOT GETTING ANY-WHERE.
HURRY UP AND BRING THAT!

GAN
GAN
GAN (ECHO)
THIS IS THE UNVEILING OF THE REBORN PRIMA-VERA.
AND THESE'RE OUR FIRST CUSTOMERS !!
THAT'S RIGHT!

CAPTAIN, WE'VE DRAWN THE ENEMY'S PRIMARY FORCE.
PLEASE DISPATCH THE MILITARY POLICE AT ONCE.

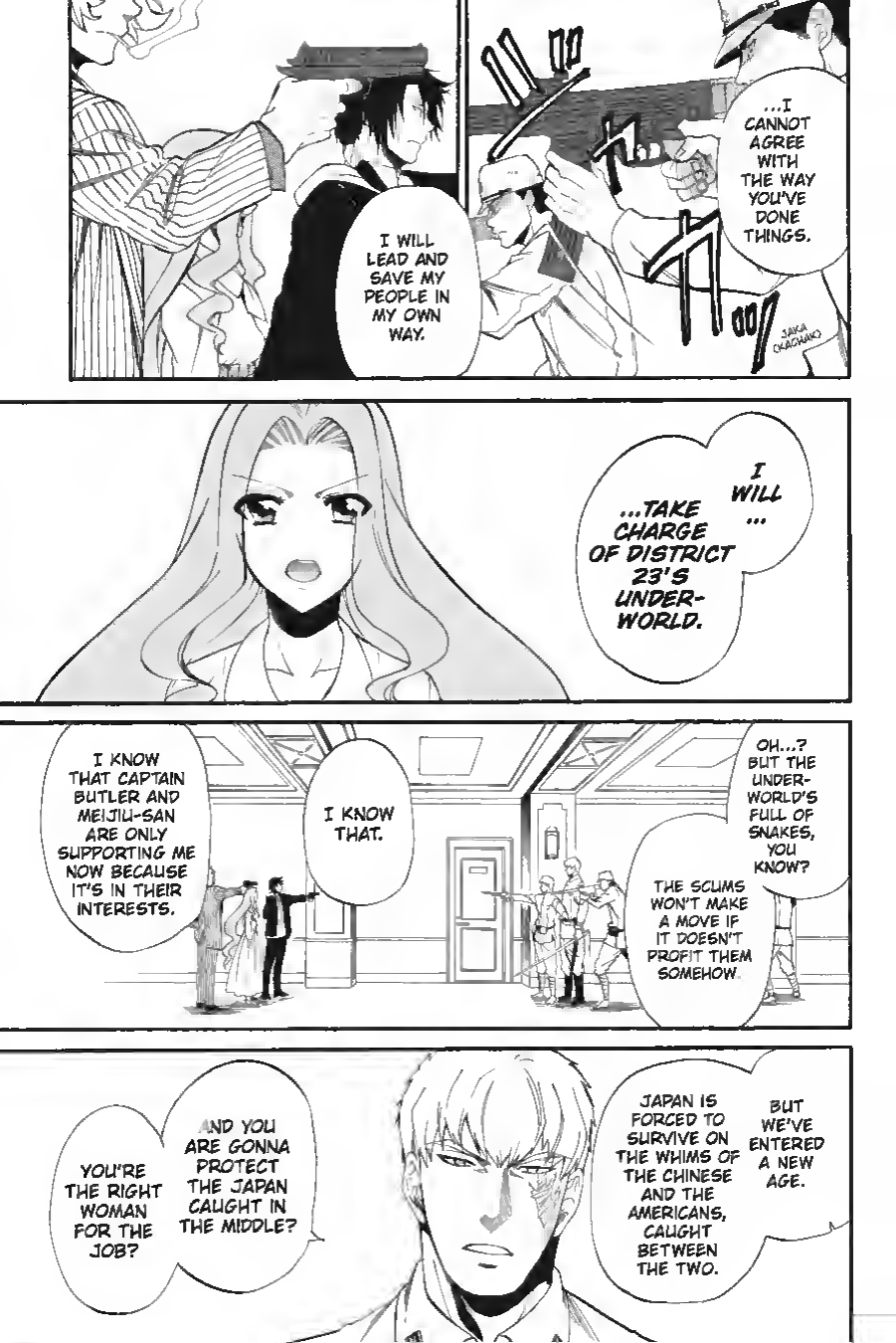

TAN
TAN
TATAN (ECHO)


GAN
GAN
GAN

I WAS HOPING YOU COULD CARRY MY OLD BONES THE REST OF THE WAY, YOUNGSTER.
HUH? TIRED ALREADY? WHAT A SHAME.
WHICH FLOOR'RE WE ON!?
SIXTH!
SHADDUP, YOU SHITTY OLD MAN!!
!!
WAYNE, THEY'RE COMING!!

EXCITING EVENING WE'RE HAVING...
HEY.
...WAYNE-KUN.
WAYNE-KUN!
YOU THOUGHT THIS BEAST COLONEL CALEB-SAMA WOULD WAIT IDLY ON HIS THRONE?

DON
DON (BOOM)
ARE YOU OKAY!?
YEAH, I'M FINE ...!
HEH... BARELY RECOG-NIZED YOU, WITH THAT PLAIN GETUP.
LOOKS LIKE YOU MANAGED TO MANGLE YOUR FACE SWINGING AROUND THAT DAMN KNIFE.
FU-FU. JUST HAVING SOME PRIDE AS A MAN.
BESIDES, I LOOK GOOD IN ANYTHING.
SFX: TA (TMP) TA TA
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG, ROSE.
BUT DON'T TELL ME YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO SAY HELLO.
LIKE I SAID ON THE PHONE THE OTHER DAY...


I WILL LEAD AND SAVE MY PEOPLE IN MY OWN WAY.
...I CANNOT AGREE WITH THE WAY YOU'VE DONE THINGS.
JAKA OKOCHIKO
I WILL ...
...TAKE CHARGE OF DISTRICT 23'S UNDER-WORLD.
I KNOW THAT CAPTAIN BUTLER AND MEIJIU-SAN ARE ONLY SUPPORTING ME NOW BECAUSE IT'S IN THEIR INTERESTS.
I KNOW THAT.
OH...? BUT THE UNDER-WORLD'S FULL OF SNAKES, YOU KNOW?
THE SCUMS WON'T MAKE A MOVE IF IT DOESN'T PROFIT THEM SOMEHOW.
YOU'RE THE RIGHT WOMAN FOR THE JOB?
AND YOU ARE GONNA PROTECT THE JAPAN CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE?
JAPAN IS FORCED TO SURVIVE ON THE WHIMS OF THE CHINESE AND THE AMERICANS, CAUGHT BETWEEN THE TWO.
BUT WE'VE ENTERED A NEW AGE.

I'M NOT ARROGANT ENOUGH TO CLAIM THAT MUCH...
...BUT I KNOW I HAVE TO TRY.
SHOULD SOMEONE MORE QUALIFIED APPEAR TO REPLACE ME, I'LL GLADLY HAND OVER THE TITLE OF MADAM.
SO I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D ALLOW ME TO TAKE THE THRONE FROM YOU.
HEH HEH...
IF YOUR RESOLVE IS TRUE...

...SUMMON THE STRENGTH TO TAKE IT FROM FATHER CALEB.
RIP THE THRONE FROM MY COLD DEAD HANDS!!!
JAKA (KACHAK)
CHINK (CRING)

EVERYONE THINKS THEIR PETS ARE THE CUTEST.
WE'VE GOT LOADS MORE WEAPONS UP ABOVE!
LET'S SETTLE IT UP THERE. ROSE, LEO, AND, UMM...
WHO'S HE AGAIN?
AH-HA-HA-HA! HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WORTH REMEMBERING. ☆
I SWEAR I'LL KILL YOU ALL BEFORE WE'RE DONE!!
HOW ABOUT GIVING 'EM SOMETHING TO REMEMBER HERE AND NOW?
WHOEVER YOU ARE..
WHY NOT TRAIN THAT SPUNKY BRAT AS WELL, LEO?
OOH, NOT BAD AT ALL! DID LEO TEACH YOU THAT?
JEALOUS OF ME AND MY DARLING PUPIL? HE'S THE CUTEST MEMBER OF OUR GANG.
I'M ALREADY HIS FIRST STUDENT!

GAN
GAN GRUMD
STOP FIRING!
MOVING THE BATTLE UPSTAIRS'LL MEAN LESS DAMAGE TO BYSTANDERS!
ZUUUUN (RUMBLE)
THEY'VE BLOWN THE BACK DOOR. RETREAT TO THE HALL!
TA (TYMP)
TA
TA
TA
QUICKLY !!
HUH!? WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING!?
PARA (RUMBLE)
PARA
KYAHHHH!
MOVE TO YOUR AS-SIGNED POSTS!
DON'T PANIC. WE PLANNED FOR THIS! WE'RE JUST ENTERING PHASE TWO!

WHY IS THE MILITARY POLICE LATE!?
IF THAT STUPID CAPTAIN'S BUNGLED THIS, HE'S NEVER TOUCHING MY TWINS AGAIN!
GASHA (CHAO)
HEY, WE'RE USED TO CUSTOMERS SHOWING UP LATE, NO?
WHEN'S THE MILITARY POLICE ARRIVING?
Sorry!!
HE THOUGHT THE ARMS ROBBERY THAT BROKE OUT EARLIER WAS THIS OPERATION!
THE PRESIDING CHIEF GOT CONFUSED!
WHAT A HAUL.
FROM TODAY ON, THE ALFRED FAMILY'S A GANG OF BANDITOS.
I'VE DONE HAD ENOUGH OF THAT DARN MAFIA BUSINESS!
JIRIRIRIRIRIRI (RING)
FAN
OVER THERE GET EM!!
FAN (WEBWOO)
KATSU
KATSU
TAKE ME TO THE HALL AND DISPLAY ME AS YOUR HOSTAGE.
IT MAY JUST BUY US THE TIME WE NEED UNTIL THE MILITARY POLICE ARRIVE.
KATSU (STEP)
... RICHARD.
HAVE THE GIRLS TAKE SHELTER BEHIND THE STAGE IN THE HALL.
CHIN (DING)
..WE'LL HAVE TO BUY AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE.

AMANDA ...
YOU...
I'M NOT CONFIDENT THAT HE'LL BE FOOLED BY OUR LITTLE ACT, BUT IT'S STILL WORTH TRYING.
HOWEVER, THEIR LEADER MAY BE MAJOR MORRIS MONOBE, AN ELITE EVEN IN CALEB'S EYES.
KATSU (STEP)
...WHOSE WOMAN DO YOU THINK I AM...?
A WOMAN WHO WOULD CRINGE IN FEAR IN SOME BACK ROOM...
...IS HARDLY SUITED TO STAND BY HIM.

SORRY IN ADVANCE, IN CASE MY TRIGGER FINGER SLIPS. ♡
INDEED. WE NEED THAT ENTHUSIASM TO BE CONVINCING.
DA
DA
DA
DA (CONT'D)
SO WHY'RE THEY THE ONES DOING THE THREAT-ENING?
I OFFERED, BUT THEY SAID MY THREATS AREN'T BELIEV-ABLE...
RIGHT ...

HI THERE, FELLAS.
WELCOME TO PRIMA-VERA.
NOW DO WHAT WE SAY OR THIS LADY GETS IT.
SO IF YOU ALL WOULD LOWER YOUR WEAPONS ...
...WE MIGHT HAVE AN ALLURING PROPOSITION FOR YOU.
I'M PRETTY SURE CALEB ORDERED YOU...
...NOT TO HARM A HAIR ON HER HEAD, AM I RIGHT?
I AIN'T DOING ANY-THING, SHITTY HAG.
OW... PLEASE STOP, THAT HURTS...!
PLEASE, MORRIS. JUST LISTEN TO THEM...!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE.
ENOUGH OF THIS DOG AND PONY SHOW.
CHA (CHAK)
DO!

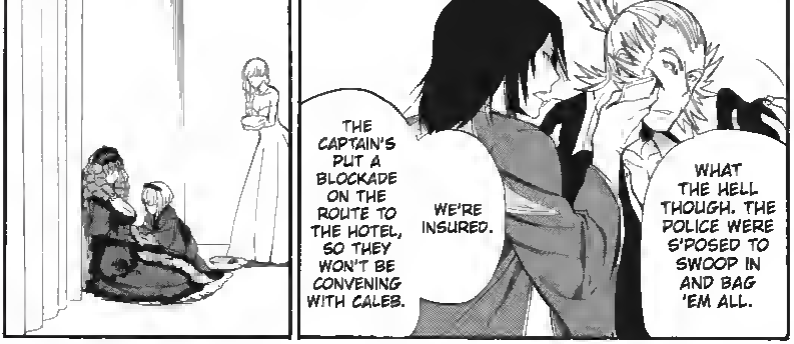
IRON SCOW!
BON
BON

...I DON'T RECOGNIZE MADAM AMANDA.
TOO BAD FOR YOU...
DO (THUD)
SHOOT THEM!!
BA (LEAD)
TCH... DON'T MOVE. STAY... UNDER ME.
WH-WHY'D YOU...
COVER STELLA AND MERYL!
FIRE, FIRE!!
GA (BLAM)
GA
GA
GA
AMANDA! STAY WITH US!
BAN (CLANG)
BAN

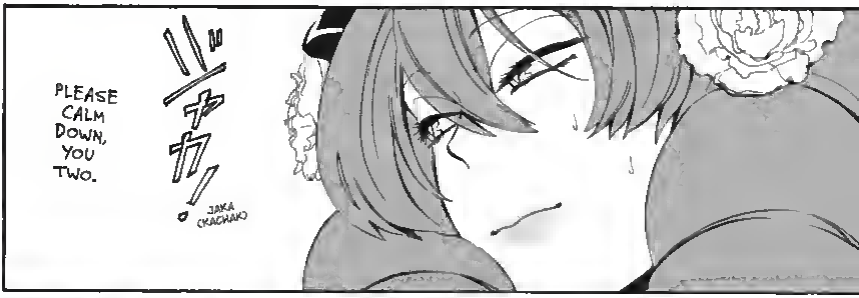
AMANDA!!
BAN
DON
GASHAN
SHIT...
RUNNING OUTTA AMMO...!

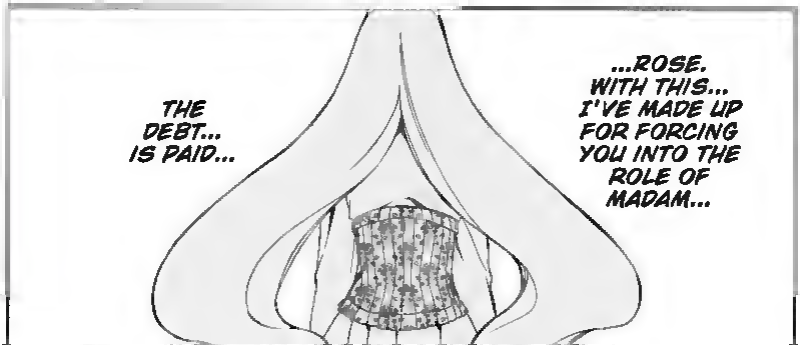
FATHER'S UNDER ATTACK AT THE BAYLETON PLAZA HOTEL!
PULL BACK. RE-TREAT!
WHAT!?
THIS WAS A DIVER-SION!
WE GOTTA GET OVER THERE AND BACK UP THE BOSS!!
DA
DA (ONOMATOPOEIA)
...LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE RUNNING AWAY.
H-HUH?

YEA
WE REALLY WON! WE DID IT!!
AAA
WE WON!!
HH!
ゴロ
GORO (ROLL)
ゴロ
GORO
ゴロ
GORO
...WE...
...WON?


THE CAPTAIN'S PUT A BLOCKADE ON THE ROUTE TO THE HOTEL, SO THEY WON'T BE CONVENING WITH CALEB.
WE'RE INSURED.
WHAT THE HELL THOUGH. THE POLICE WERE S'POSED TO SWOOP IN AND BAG 'EM ALL.

YOU'RE SURPRISED? AND AT LEAST I DON'T KEEP MY BRAINS STUFFED IN MY BOOBS.
I GUESS EVEN A TRIGGER-HAPPY LOLI HAG CAN BE OF USE.


PLEASE CALM DOWN, YOU TWO.
JAKA (KACHAK)


THE DEBT... IS PAID...
...ROSE. WITH THIS... I'VE MADE UP FOR FORCING YOU INTO THE ROLE OF MADAM...

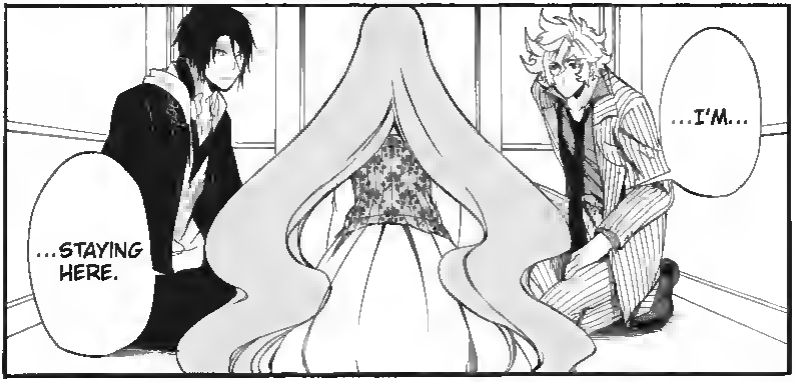
...
AMANDA-SAN?
SOME-ONE CALL AN AMBULANCE FOR AMANDA-SA—
HELLO CAPTAIN BUTLER. THIS IS RICHA—
GO (GLARE)
RICHARD-SAN, THE CAPTAIN'S ON THE LINE!
...I'M SORRY.
Captain. They slipped away, but Primavera is safe.
Ah. The military police have just arrived outside the club.
...YES, I'M ALSO SORRY... ABOUT THAT...
I'm afraid I don't follow, captain.
GUSU (SNIFF)

THE ARREST WAS A FAILURE AND NOW THEY'VE BLOCKADED THE WRONG ROAD!?
GACHA (CLICK)
SO THE ENEMY FIGURED OUT THE CLUB WAS A DECOY AND THEY'RE HEADED THIS WAY!?
GOOD THING WE CHECKED LOOKS LIKE THE GODS AREN'T ON THAT CAPTAIN'S SIDE
DESPITE HIS GOOD LOOKS
He's got eagle eyes, he says? More like a couple of marbles!
GAN (BLAM)
GAN
GAHHH
Yeah, the captain just gave us a call about it.
OH MY...
BAN (BANG)
I KNEW WE COULDN'T TRUST THAT PIECE OF TRASH!!
GOTTA DECIDE WHETHER TO RETREAT OR PRESS ON, OR WE'LL BE A COUPLE OF CORNERED RATS.
GAN (BLAM)
GAN
BAN
THERE'S NO TIME.
GACHA (GACHAK)

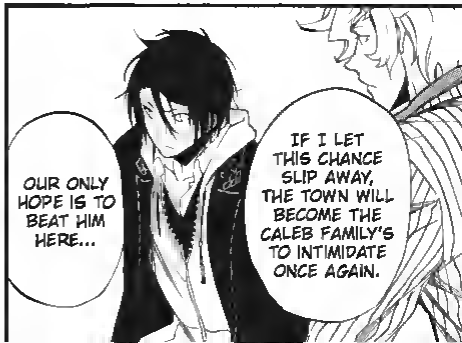
HEY, HEY, HOW'S THIS?
GOTTA MAKE THE SECOND ROUND FLASHY!
I'D EXPECT NO LESS
AMAZ-ING!!
ARE YOU KIDDING? WHAT THE FUCK'S THAT!?
ONE HIT AND YOUR TORSO AND LEGS'LL BE LIKE THE WEAVER GIRL AND COWHERD—DESTINED TO BE FOREVER APART.
IT'S LIKE THE MILKY WAY, EMBODIED.

FOR SURE. TO THINK I WAS HOPING TO USE HIM.
MY FIFTY MILLION DOWN THE DRAIN
GAN
GAN
GUESS HE'S FINALLY REAPING WHAT HE SOWED.
OH? SO THAT BUNGLING CAPTAIN SCREWED UP AGAIN?
GAN
GAN
GAN
COLONEL, MORRIS'S SQUAD IS MAKING ITS WAY OVER TO PROVIDE BACKUP.

...WHAT WILL YOU DO, ROSE?
... WELL ...

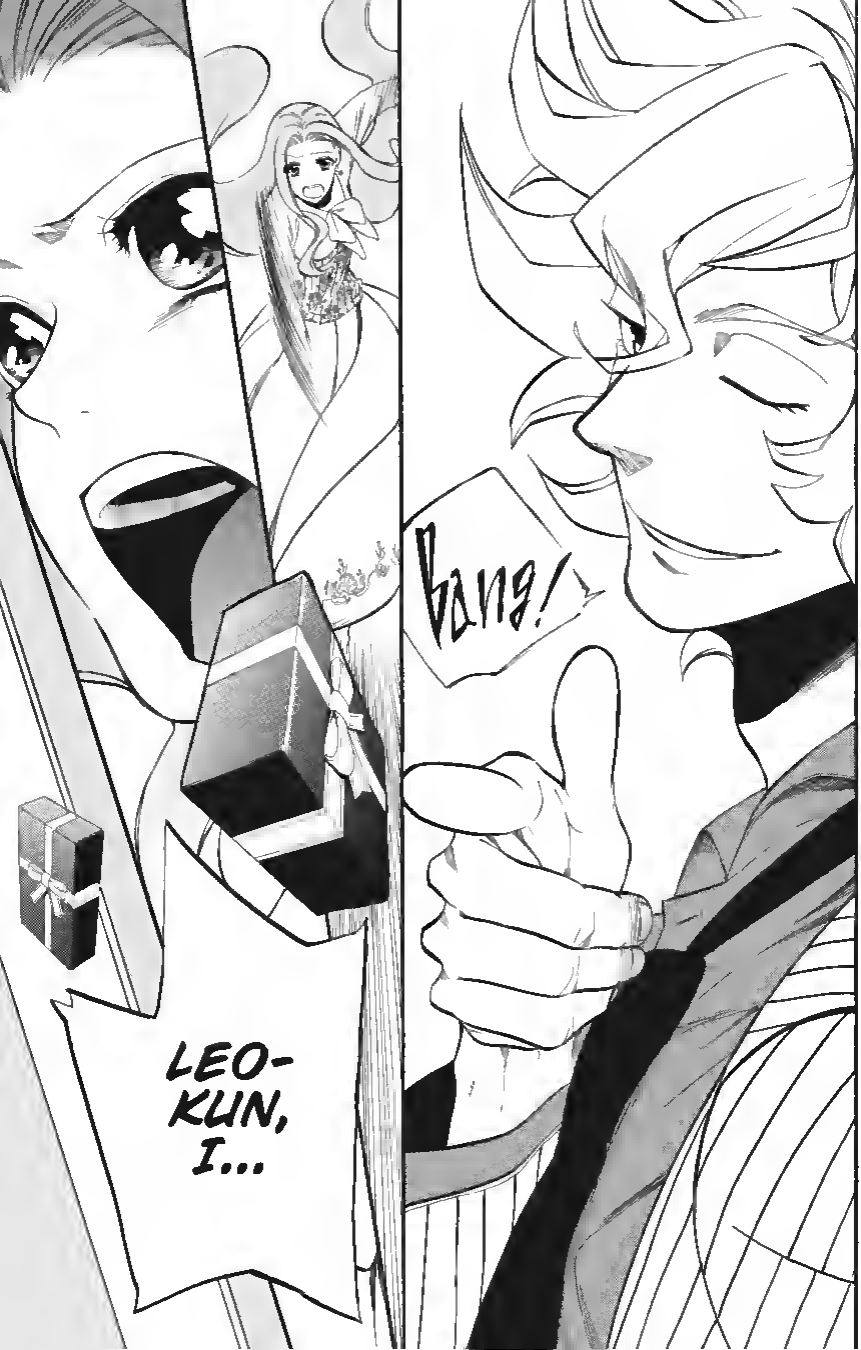

...STAYING HERE.
...I'M...

I'VE ACCEPTED THAT.
YOU MIGHT DIE TRYING.


OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO BEAT HIM HERE...
IF I LET THIS CHANCE SLIP AWAY, THE TOWN WILL BECOME THE CALEB FAMILY'S TO INTIMIDATE ONCE AGAIN.

AND EVEN THEN, YOU'D ALL INHERIT MY IDEALS, I SUSPECT.
MY DEATH WOULDN'T STOP EVERYONE AT PRIMAVERA FROM LEADING OUR COUNTRY-MEN.
KOTSU
KOTSU
KOTSU (STEP)
YOU RUNNING AWAY!?
!?
LEO-KUN!?
COURSE NOT.
THIS OLD MAN'S JUST HANDING OVER THE SPOTLIGHT TO YOU YOUTH.
H-HEY, WHERE'RE YOU...?
...I NEED TO GIVE IT TO HIM NOW...
...LEO-KUN, DON'T TELL ME...
I'M GLAD I GOT TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE YOU GUYS.

WAYNE. KEEP POLISHING THOSE SKILLS.
I KNOW YOU CAN BECOME THE STRONGEST GUY AROUND.
ROSE. MAKE THOSE IDEALS A REALITY.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN BRING BACK OUR OLD HOMETOWN.
KOTSU (STEP)
KOTSU
KOTSU
W-WAIT.
LEO-KUN!!


LEO-
KUN,
I...
Bang!

GOUJUN (WHIRR)
ME TOO...
...YEAH.
CHIIN (DING)
KOTSU
KOTSU
KOTSU (STEP)

DOKA (PWUMP)
ZURI (DRAG)
KI (SCREE)
KI
KII
SHUBO (FLIK)
GACHAN (CLICK)
GACHA
BATA
BATA
BATA (STOMP)
ROOT OUT THE ENEMY AND KILL TH—
...EM...
DAKA
DAKA
HURRY. FATHER'S UP TOP!
DAKA (RUSH)

OUR BOSSES ARE HAVING A DINNER OF LEAD UPSTAIRS.
SORRY, NO VACANCIES TONIGHT.
WHAT...?
...ARE ABOUT TO INHERIT THE ERA FROM US OLD-TIMERS.
...SOME YOUNG-STERS...
KA (GTO)
DON GRODNO

...OLD MEN SHOULD BE CONTENT TO FACE EACH OTHER.
WHAT I'M SAYING IS...
FIRE!!

DO
DO (BOOM)
DO
DO
DO
GAN (BANG)
GAN
GAN
...I'VE BEEN CONVINCED WE SOLDIERS WERE FORCED INTO A POINTLESS WAR...

—RIGHT NOW, I'M FIGHTING...
...WOULDN'T GIVE UP ON THE FUTURE...
BUT... NOW I KNOW IT WASN'T MEANING-LESS.
WE WERE FIGHTING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION— ONE THAT...

A SMOKE-SCREEN?
HYU (WHOOSH)
SUSHUUUD (FSSHHH)
...THAT'S WHY I'M FIGHTING.
...FOR THOSE YOUNGSTERS WHO'LL USHER IN THE FUTURE...
...I AIN'T GETTING ON THAT BOAT.
AND THIS TIME...

GET DOWN!!
DOGAN (CRASH)
GAH..
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA (CTHD)
WAYNE-KUN!
WHERE'RE CALEB AND MIGUEL!?

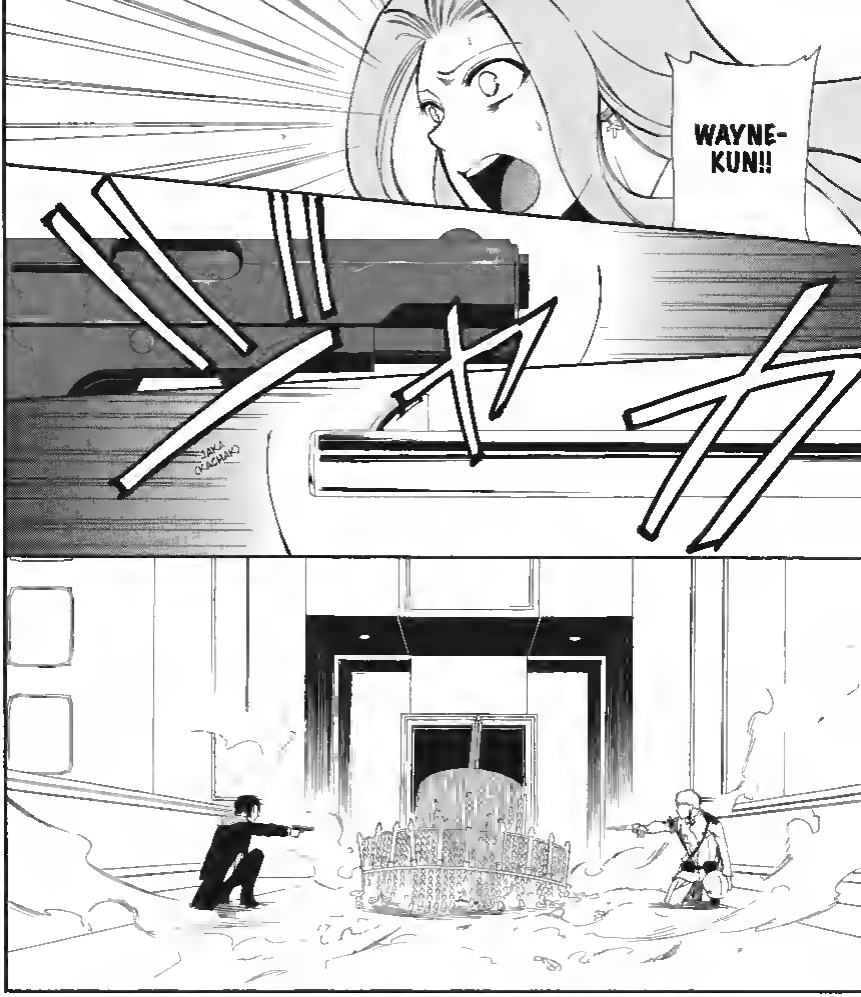
STAY WITH ME, NOW!
YOU'RE TOO FRAIL TO BE TAKING HITS FOR ME, YOU DUMB BASTARD...!
EHH...
I'VE... BEEN TRAINING, IN CASE I NEEDED TO CARRY YOU OUT OF BATTLE...
BUT, WELL... FU-FU.
LOOKS LIKE... YOU'RE THE ONE CARRYING ME AGAIN ...

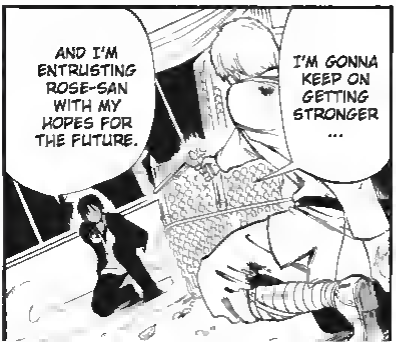
DA
DA
DA

PATA COMIP

WAYNE-KUN.
ABOVE YOU!!!
GA
GBLAM!
GASH

DOKA (SLAM)
(SFX)
BAN (BANG)
BAN
BAN
PU (SNAP)
GASHAA (SMASH)


WAYNE-KUN!!
JAKA (KACHAK)


I'M GONNA KEEP ON GETTING STRONGER ...
AND I'M ENTRUSTING ROSE-SAN WITH MY HOPES FOR THE FUTURE.

A GIFT FROM THAT SKILLED TEACHER OF YOURS?
FU-FU. YOU'VE GOT A NEW LOOK IN THOSE EYES.

SO THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTING ROSE-SAN DIE...!
WE'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT, THEN.
BECAUSE I REFUSE TO LET HIM DIE— TO LET YOU KILL HIM.
BANG
BANG

GAN
GAN
GAN

BARI
GA
GASHAN (SMASH)
ガキーン
BARI
DO (THERE'S)
ZUZA (SKID)
TCH.
SHIT
...
GA (GRAB)

БАБАХ
ГРОХОТ

JA
(SHINK)
OOO
(WHOOSH)
...
BASTARD
...
DO
(STAB)
GACHI
CLICKO
AHH.
UGH...

AHHHHH!
GAGAN CELAKU
I WON'T LOSE. I WON'T LOSE.
I WON'T LOSE. I WON'T LOSE.
GA CELAKU
EVEN... IF I DIE... I AIN'T LOSING EITHER...!!
...AND I...

キン
KIN (PING)
ヒュアァァ
HYUAAAA (WHOOSH)
ヨロ
YORO (WOBBLE)
...I...
...WON'T... LOSE.
ボタ
BOTA (DRIP)
BOTA
ア
AH...
GAH...

GOFU (SPUTTER)
...IT WON'T END...
THERE'S... NOWHERE TO RUN...
I... WON'T... LOSE...
BOTATA (DRIP)
WHETHER I WIN... OR DIE...
I KNEW... ALL ALONG.
...WILL NEVER END...
MY WAR...

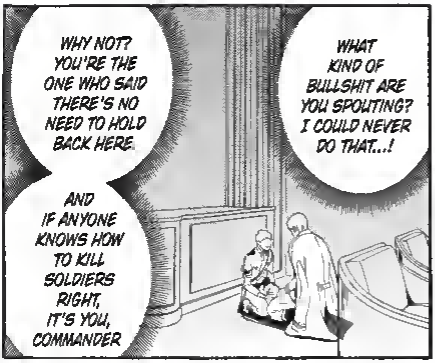
YOU STUPID BAS-TARD!!!
UAHHHHHH!!!
...FOR YOU AND ME...
THIS IS ALL WE'VE GOT...

PRIVATE KURA-SHIKI!!!
THAT'S ENOUGH.
KOTSU (STEP)

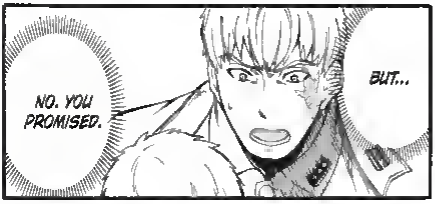
AS OF NOW, YOU ARE RELIEVED OF DUTY!
DISARM YOURSELF AND CEASE ALL COMBAT OPERA-TIONS!!
.....
SOU... HE!...
I HEREBY PERMIT YOU TO LEAVE AND LEAD A PEACEFUL AND MEAN-INGFUL LIFE AS A CIVILIAN!!
WELL FOUGHT, KURA-SHIKI!!!
YOU'VE BATTLED BRAVELY !!!

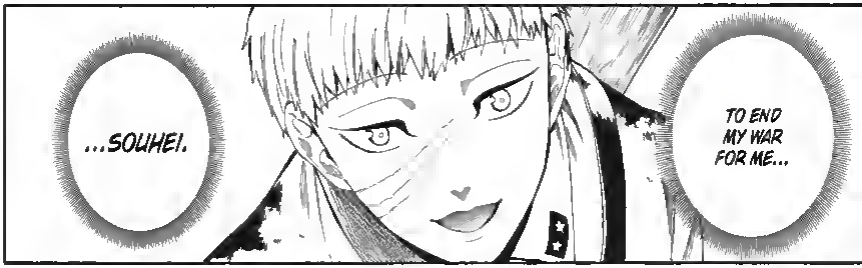
...IS IT OVER...? MY WAR...
POTA (DRIP)
ポタ
POTA
ポタ
I STILL HAVEN'T WON...OR SURRENDERED... OR DIED...
BUT... BUT...
NO NEED TO WIN OR LOSE.
THAT'S ALL DUST IN THE WIND ONCE THE REAL WAR'S OVER.
RIGHT?
THAT'S ONE WAY... TO END IT, THEN...
...I SEE...

THEN... I GUESS MY WAR...
...IS FINALLY... OVER...
SORRY 'BOUT THAT. I'M GREEDY, YOU KNOW.
BESIDES, YOU BROKE IT FIRST.
...BUT YOU BROKE YOUR PROMISE AGAIN...
YOU LIAR...
HUH...?
OKAY?
I'LL DRAW BOTH OF THEM AWAY.


WHY NOT? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID THERE'S NO NEED TO HOLD BACK HERE.
AND IF ANYONE KNOWS HOW TO KILL SOLDIERS RIGHT, IT'S YOU, COMMANDER
WHAT KIND OF BULLSHIT ARE YOU SPOUTING? I COULD NEVER DO THAT...!

YOU USE THAT CHANCE TO MOW US ALL DOWN WITH THE MACHINE-GUN.


NO. YOU PROMISED.
BUT...


...SOUHEI.
TO END MY WAR FOR ME...

SHIGERU...

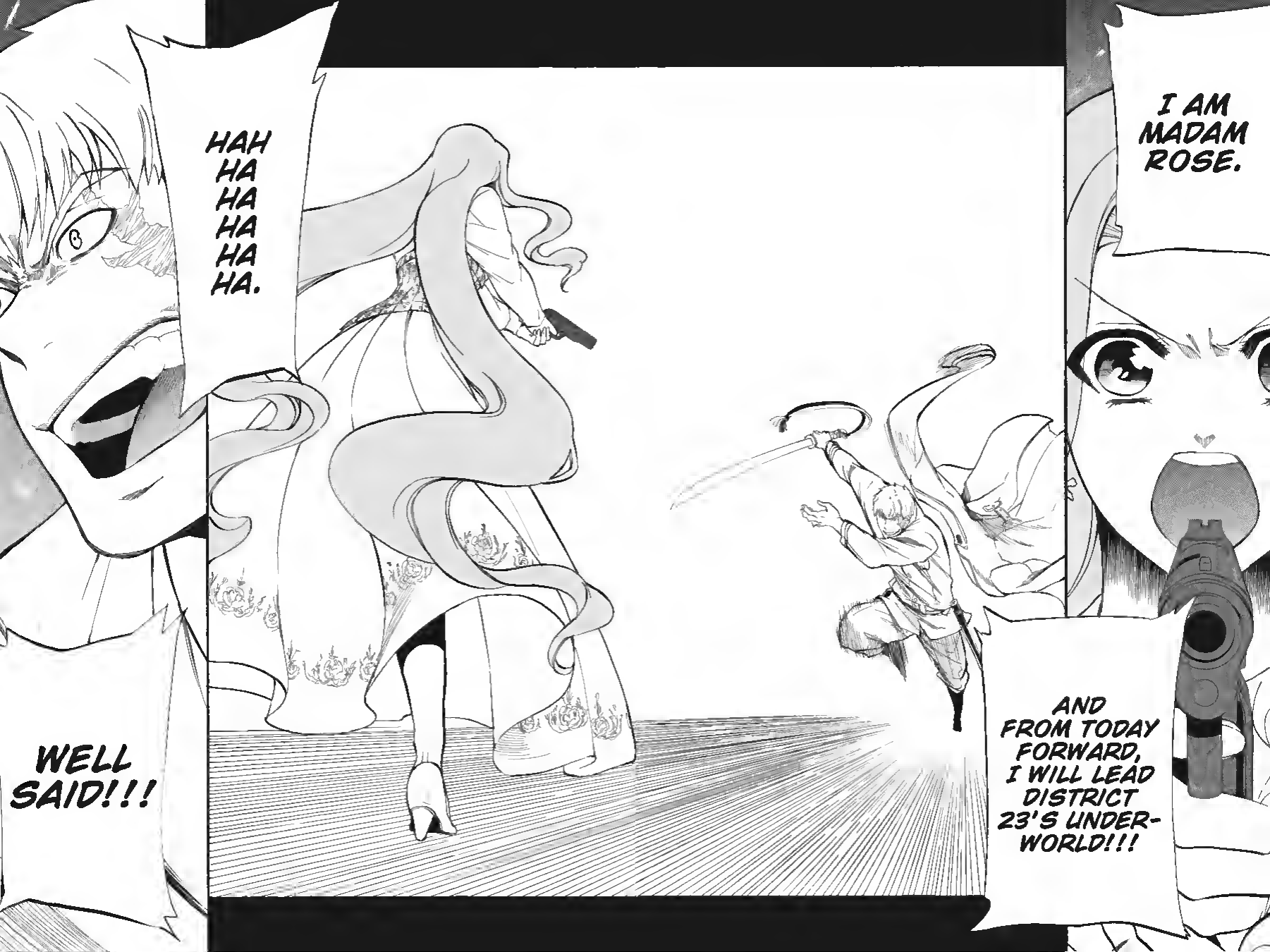
FU-FU...
I DID SAY... THAT I WANTED... TO SHARE YOUR FATE, BUT...
...IT'S TRUE...
...GOT IT.
GUESS I'LL BE THE ONE...
...GETTING THOSE THOUSAND SLAPS.
I DID THE SAME. CONSIDER US EVEN.

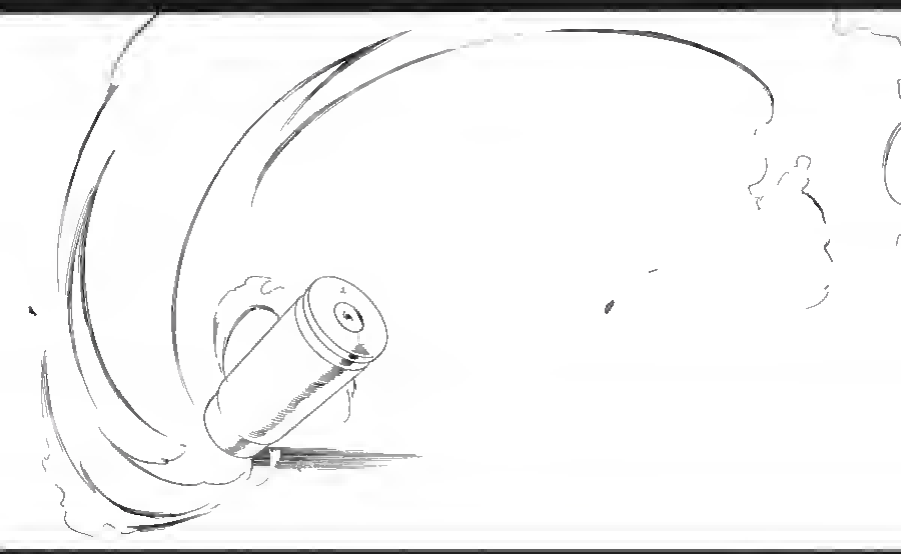
WELL DONE, KURA-SHIKI.
BAN CRAM
NOW TAKE YOUR LEAVE !!!
DO (THIS)?

ROSE... SA.....
THANK YOU. I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
WAYNE-KUN!!
UGH...
DO (THUD)
GASHAN (CLATTER)
KA (CREAK)
...IN THIS AGE OF LAMENT AND SUFFERING ...
...YOU EMERGED TO SAVE OUR COUNTRY-MEN...
...AND CARED FOR THOSE WHO RISKED THEIR LIVES FOR YOU...
FOR THAT, I RESPECT YOU AND YOUR STRENGTH...

SHUUUU
GYAOOSHO
THOSE SOLDIERS NEVER EXPERIENCED THE HELL THAT WAS THE CALAMITY.
WHO CAN SAY WHICH HELL WAS WORSE? NO POINT IN COMPARING, REALLY.
YOU GOT ONE THING WRONG.
THE ONLY ONES I WANNA SAVE ARE THE GUYS WHO SURVIVED THE BATTLEFIELD.
...BUT WHAT I CAN NEVER FORGIVE...
...IS HOW THE POPULACE TREATED MY BROTHERS WITH CONTEMPT AFTER THEY RETURNED BY THE SKIN OF THEIR TEETH...
...EVEN SO, WHAT YOU MIGHT'VE ACHIEVED...
...COULD HAVE SAVED MANY JAPANESE ALONG THE WAY.
CHA
CHAKO

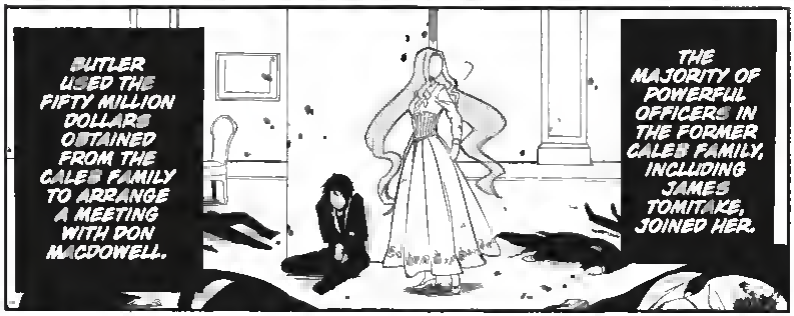
...SO MANY CASUALTIES COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED.
...IF ONLY I'D HAD THE STRENGTH TO DO THIS THE DAY YOU VISITED PRIMAVERA...
AM I RIGHT?
THAT CAN'T BE DONE WITH WORDS ALONE. RESOLVE MUST BE DEMONSTRATED.
...AS I WILL INHERIT BOTH YOUR SINS AND YOUR IDEALS.
...SO PLEASE FORGIVE ME...
...AND I'M SORRY.
THANK YOU, REALLY...

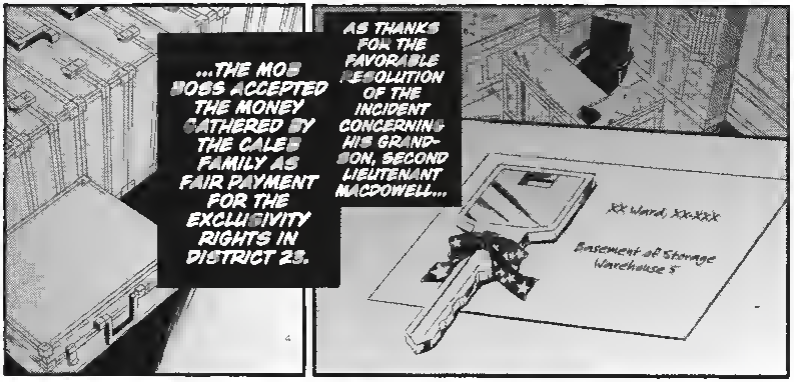

HAH HA HA HA HA HA.
I AM MADAM ROSE.
WELL SAID!!!
AND FROM TODAY FORWARD, I WILL LEAD DISTRICT 23'S UNDER-WORLD!!!



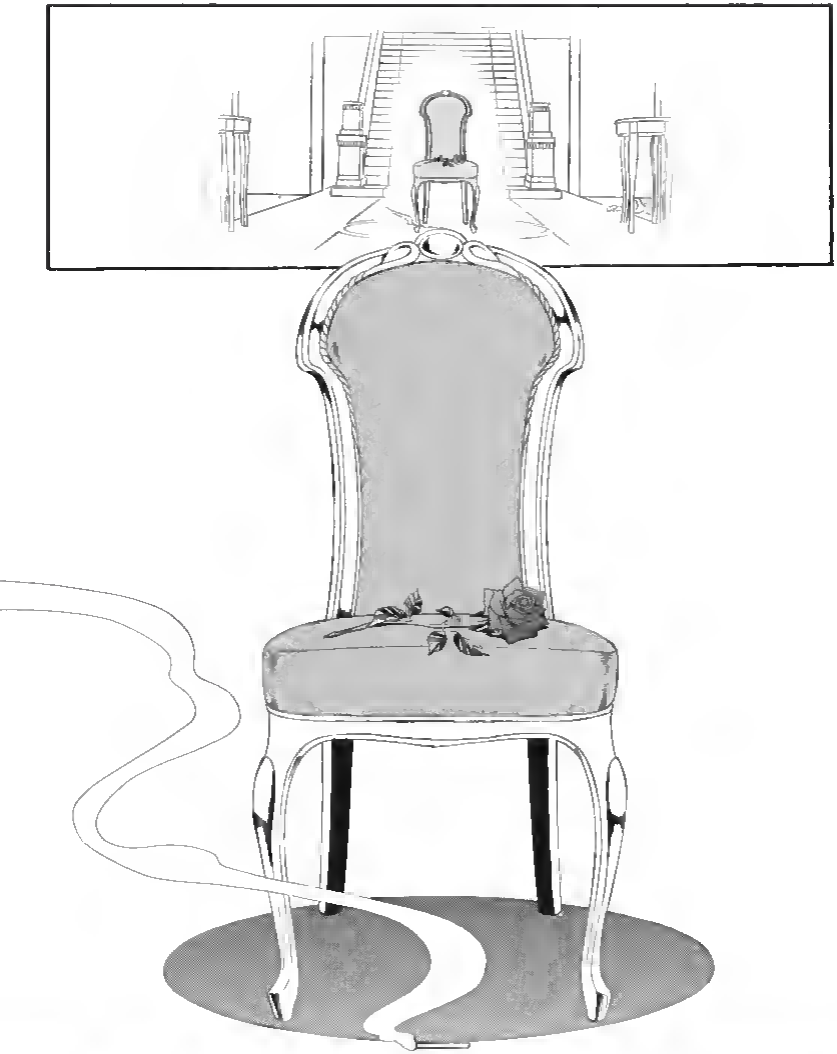
—IN THE DAYS AND YEARS TO COME, THESE EVENTS WOULD COME TO BE KNOWN AS "THE NIGHT OF ROSES AND GUNS."

MADAM ROSE BECAME THE NEW RULER OF DISTRICT 23'S UNDERWORLD.

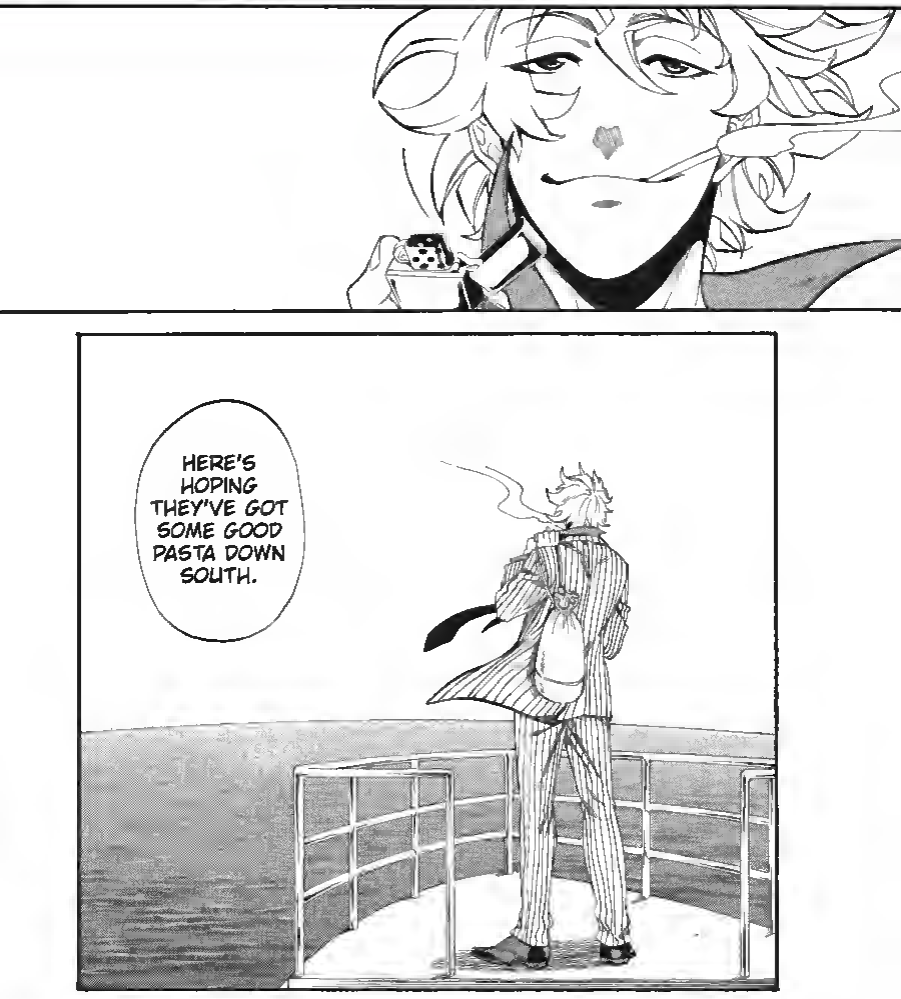

BUTLER USED THE FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS OBTAINED FROM THE CALEB FAMILY TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH DON MACDOWELL.
THE MAJORITY OF POWERFUL OFFICERS IN THE FORMER CALEB FAMILY, INCLUDING JAMES TOMITAKE, JOINED HER.


...THE MOB BOSS ACCEPTED THE MONEY GATHERED BY THE CALEB FAMILY AS FAIR PAYMENT FOR THE EXCLUSIVITY RIGHTS IN DISTRICT 23.
AS THANKS FOR THE FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF THE INCIDENT CONCERNING HIS GRANDSON, SECOND LIEUTENANT MACDOWELL...
XX Ward, XX-XXX
Basement of Storage Warehouse 5

PEOPLE GRADUALLY BEGAN RETURNING TO THE AREA, WHICH FLOURISHED MORE THAN IT EVER HAD.
AS A RESULT, THE LABORERS OF DISTRICT 23 SAW A DRASTIC INCREASE IN THEIR WAGES.



ZAZAN (SPLASH)
ZA
ZA
ZA
SHUBO (FLIK)



ROSE GUNS DAYS Season 1 END

GA (CLANK)
GA
GA
GA
GA
GATA (RATTLE)
GATA
THERE'S SOME MAJOR CONSTRUCTION GOING ON IN FRONT OF YOUR APARTMENT.
INDEED. THE NOISE IS UNBEARABLE.
...MIND IF I STAY HERE FOR A WHILE? THE OFFICE AND CLUB ARE CLOSE.
?
I DON'T SEE WHY NOT, BUT...

ABOUT ROSE GUNS DAYS SEASON 1

The Incredible Power of the Pen!

From the original writer and supervisor Ryukishi07

Hey! Ryukishi07, here.

How did you like Rose Guns Days Season 1*? It showcases the meeting between Leo and Rose and marks the start of this post-war underworld epic, and I want to applaud Soichiro-sensei from the bottom of my heart for using his incredible power of the pen to bring it to life!*

In the manga version of Season 1*, he's managed to portray the charm of each and every character—even those who didn't get as much of a chance to shine in the original work. It's been done in such a way that even those who've played the original should find this a new and exciting read.*

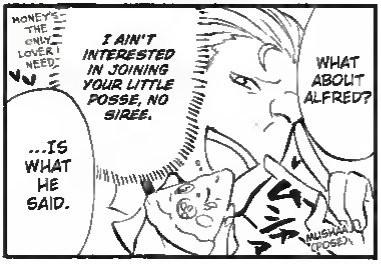
Again, I have to thank Soichiro-sensei for his hard work! He managed to preserve the integrity of the original while finding just the right way to portray it in manga form.

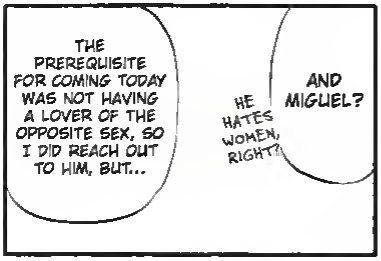
I'm so glad that the opening to the long tale of Rose Guns Days *has been faithfully recreated in his magnificent art style!*

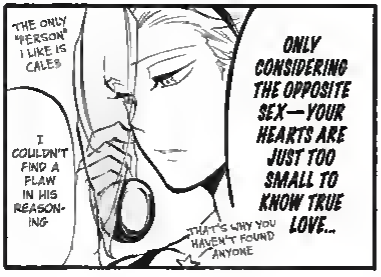
As the original author, getting to experience this manga interpretation was really fun, because it felt like I was just another reader. Getting a peek at Soichiro-sensei's rough drafts was always a blast. I'm honestly a little sad that it's all over now, and I'd love another chance to work with him! Thanks again for everything!

BONUS

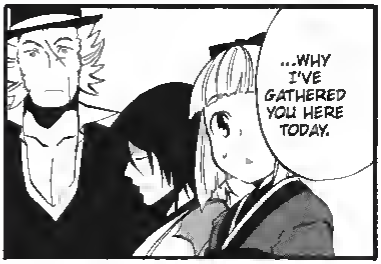
THE SIZE OF ONE'S HEART

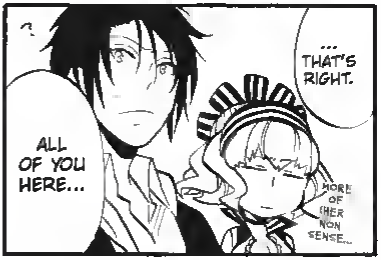

MONEY'S THE ONLY LOVER I NEED.
I AIN'T INTERESTED IN JOINING YOUR LITTLE POSSE, NO SIREE.
WHAT ABOUT ALFRED?
...IS WHAT HE SAID.
MUSCLE POSE!

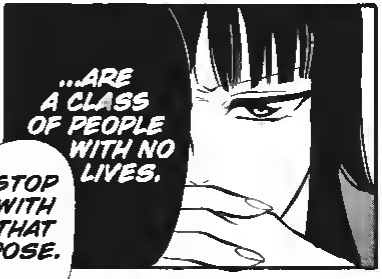

THE PREREQUISITE FOR COMING TODAY WAS NOT HAVING A LOVER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX, SO I DID REACH OUT TO HIM, BUT...
HE HATES WOMEN, RIGHT?
AND MIGUEL?

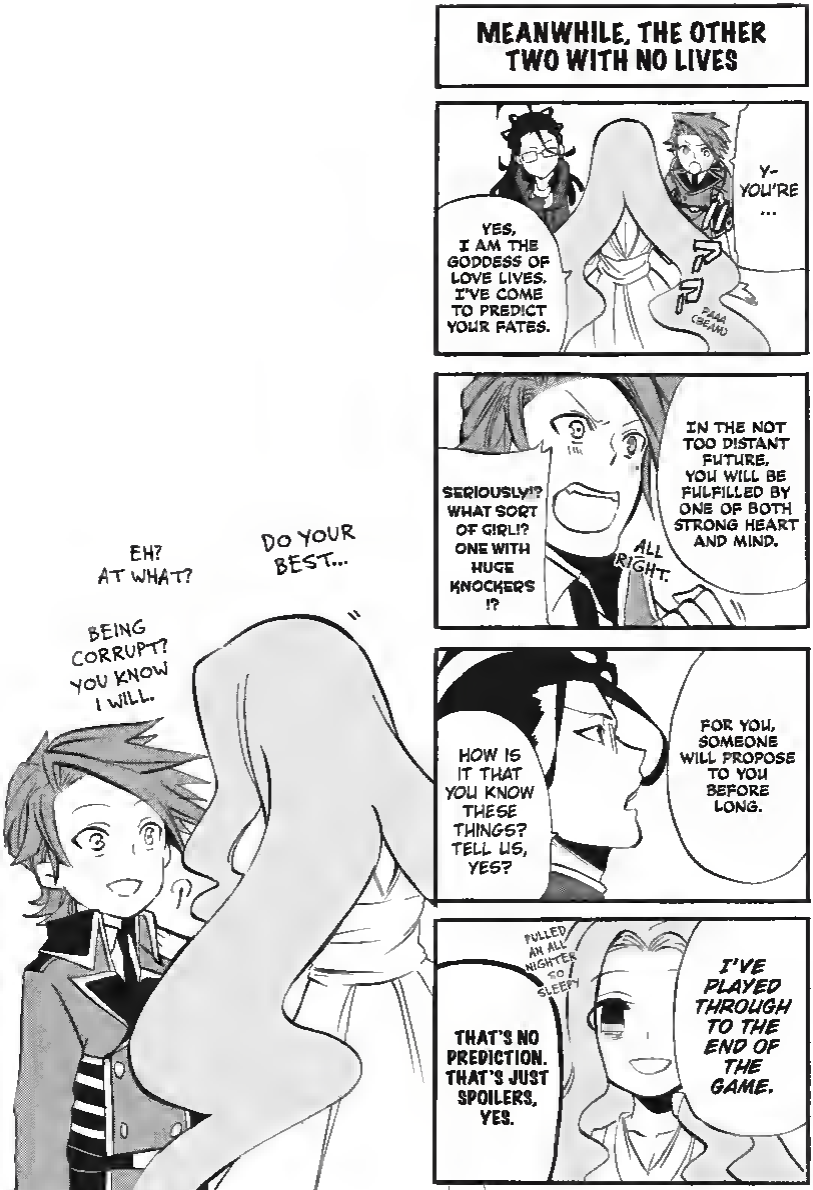

THE ONLY "PERSON" I LIKE IS CALES
I COULDN'T FIND A FLAW IN HIS REASONING
ONLY CONSIDERING THE OPPOSITE SEX—YOUR HEARTS ARE JUST TOO SMALL TO KNOW TRUE LOVE...
THAT'S WHY YOU HAVEN'T FOUND ANYONE

A LITTLE MEETING








MEANWHILE, THE OTHER TWO WITH NO LIVES
Y-YOU'RE...
PAAA (SFX)
YES, I AM THE GODDESS OF LOVE LIVES. I'VE COME TO PREDICT YOUR FATES.
IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, YOU WILL BE FULFILLED BY ONE OF BOTH STRONG HEART AND MIND.
ALL RIGHT.
SERIOUSLY!? WHAT SORT OF GIRL!? ONE WITH HUGE KNOCKERS !?
FOR YOU, SOMEONE WILL PROPOSE TO YOU BEFORE LONG.
HOW IS IT THAT YOU KNOW THESE THINGS? TELL US, YES?
I'VE PLAYED THROUGH TO THE END OF THE GAME.
PULLED AN ALL NIGHTER SO SLEEPY
THAT'S NO PREDICTION. THAT'S JUST SPOILERS, YES.
DO YOUR BEST...
EH? AT WHAT?
BEING CORRUPT? YOU KNOW I WILL.

THE ENEMY WITHIN...
BUT WHY RUSH? WHY NOT TAKE THE TIME TO FIND A SUITABLE PARTNER?
IT'S THAT ATTITUDE LEAVING YOU OLD AND UNMARRIED, BROTHER.
BUT I'M QUITE SATISFIED WITH MY LIFE AS IT IS.
AH.
IT'S ABOUT TIME TO DO THE SHOPPING, ISN'T IT, RICHARD?
NEED FOOD FOR DINNER
INDEED.
CAN I ASK YOU TO WATCH YUUJI AND THE HOUSE WHILE I'M OUT?
NAH, LET ME GO. YOU WERE TRAMPLED ALL OVER BY OLD LADIES DURING THE LIMITED-TIME SALE LAST TIME.
R-RIGHT. WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT YOU.
KNOCK IT OFF. I'M BLUSHING—
BE GONE.
STELLA
THE STORE WAS OFFERING ONE CARTON OF EGGS TO EACH CUSTOMER, SO ALL THREE OF THEM WENT.
YOUR BABY DOESN'T COUNT FOR THIS DEAL, BUT HE'S SO CUTE, SO I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU GUYS ANYWAY.
! THANK YOU KINDLY.

YOU'RE LIKE A HOUSEWIFE.

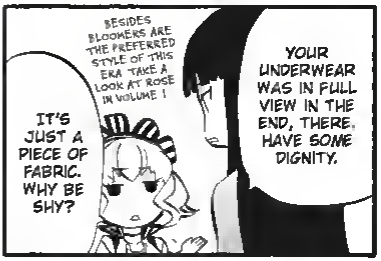
THE MESSIAH WITH A LOVE LIFE
!!
PAAA (BEAM)
WORRY NOT, BEAUTIFUL MAIDENS.
I AM MESSIAH TO ALL ANGSTING BEAUTIES...
MY NAME IS LEO SHISHI—
GAH.
(BOGUA (POW))
YOU PLANNING TO CHEAT? HUH?
A FRAGRANCE TO MAKE EVEN A GOD INTO A PRISONER OF LOVE...
SOME WOMEN NEED NO PERFUME— JUST THEIR NATURAL, ALLURING SCENT.
PRETTY SURE THAT'S JUST THE SMELL OF YOUR HOUSE, STELLA-SAN...
※SELF-CENSORING THE IMAGE OF THIS HAG'S DIRTY OLD LAIR.
COMBINE ENOUGH ODORS AND A GOOD ONE MIRACULOUSLY EMERGES

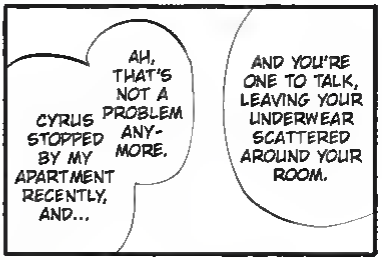
SATISFIED WITH LIFE?
NOSHI (GRABS)
HEY, HEY, CALEB. ☆
HMM? YOU BEEN PUTTING ON WEIGHT? YOU'VE GOTTEN HEAVY.
...DON'T YOU THINK YOU SMOKE TOO MUCH?
DO I? NO MORE THAN USUAL.
SIGH.....
AND YOUR TALONS LOOK LIKE YOU'VE DYED THEM IN RAT'S BLOOD
THAT PERFUME OF YOURS STINKS, HAG.
TH-THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT. YOU USED TO BE SO SCRAWNY, BUT NOW YOU SEEM HEALTHIER, WHICH MAKES ME VERY HAPPY...
AND YOU COULDN'T JUST SAY "HEALTHIER," THEN? AM I WRONG?
NO MORE SMOKING FOR YOU FOR THE TIME BEING.
EH!? BUT WHY!?
OH? DO YOU PREFER THE SMELL OF TOBACCO TO MY PERFUME? MAYBE I SHOULD JUST WEAR EAU DE TOBACCO.
S-SORRY.

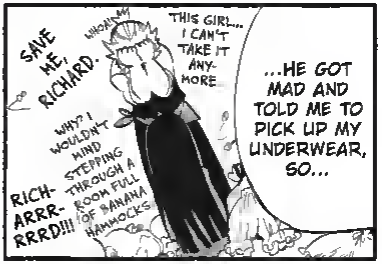
FRILLY THINGS

ALREADY PUT THEM WITH THE HANDKERCHIEFS
JUST KEEP LOOKING FOR 'EM.
MY UNDERWEAR.
I DO WE HAVE AN UNDERWEAR THIEF!?
THE HANDSEWN ONES.
SO GROSS.

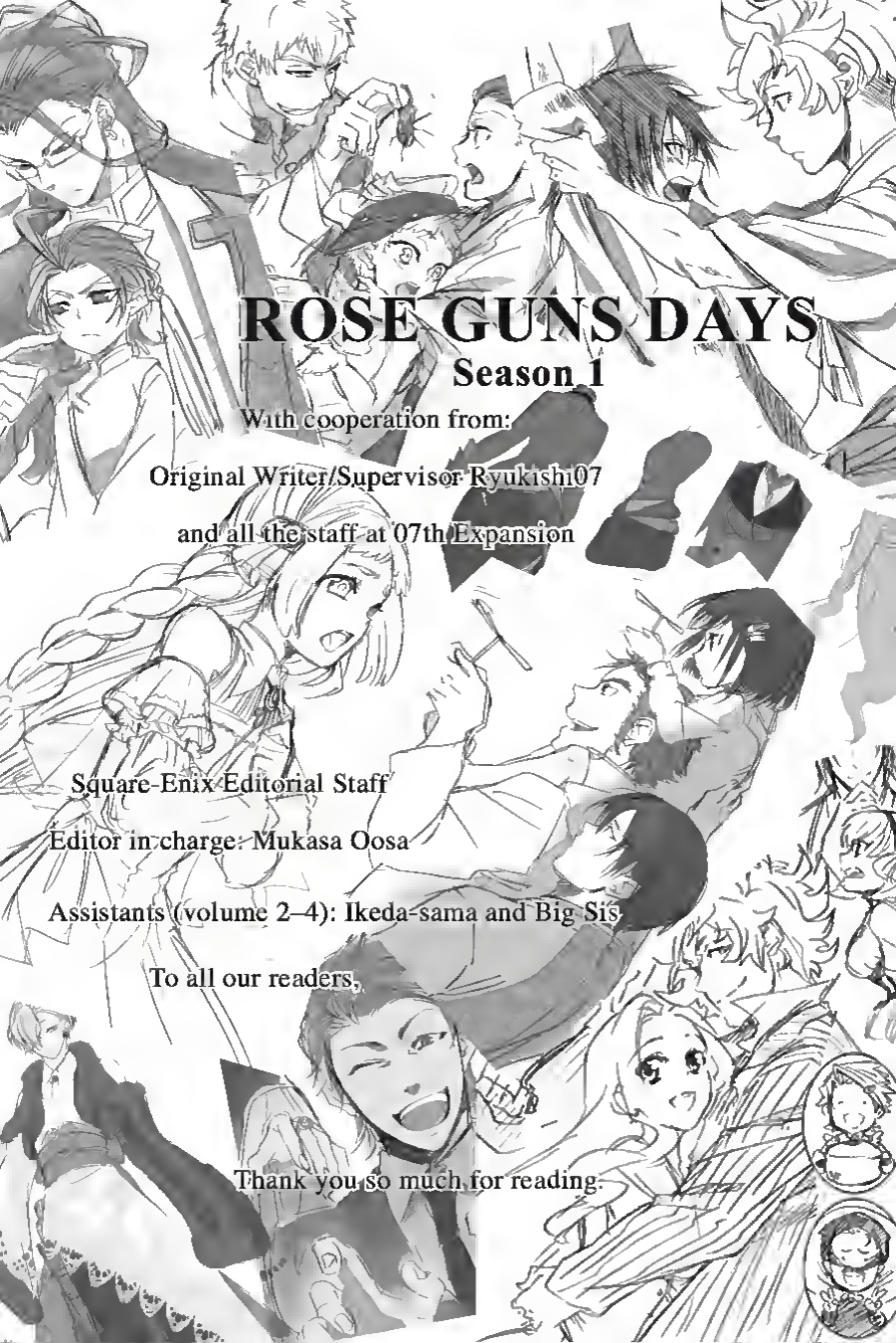
NO PROBLEMS HERE


IT'S JUST A PIECE OF FABRIC. WHY BE SHY?
BESIDES BLOOMERS ARE THE PREFERRED STYLE OF THIS ERA TAKE A LOOK AT ROSE IN VOLUME 1
YOUR UNDERWEAR WAS IN FULL VIEW IN THE END, THERE. HAVE SOME DIGNITY.


CYRUS STOPPED BY MY APARTMENT RECENTLY, AND...
AH, THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM ANYMORE.
AND YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, LEAVING YOUR UNDERWEAR SCATTERED AROUND YOUR ROOM.


SAVE ME, RICHARD.
WHOA!!
THIS GIRL... I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE
...HE GOT MAD AND TOLD ME TO PICK UP MY UNDERWEAR, SO...
WHY? I WOULDN'T MIND STEPPING THROUGH A ROOM FULL OF BANANA HAMMOCKS
RICH-ARRR-RRRD!!!!

I SHOULD BE FINE, ANYWAY
AND BLOOMERS ARE SO UNSOPHISTICATED
THIS ONE'S NEVER GONNA GET MARRIED ...
SO I STOPPED WEARING THEM ALTOGETHER.
CLEANING THEM IS TOO MUCH WORK.



ROSE GUNS DAYS
Season 1

With cooperation from:

Original Writer/Supervisor Ryukishi07

and all the staff at 07th Expansion

Square-Enix Editorial Staff

Editor in charge: Mukasa Oosa

Assistants (volume 2–4): Ikeda-sama and Big Sis

To all our readers,

Thank you so much for reading.

I TRIED IT OUT

PATA
PATA (SWISH)
LEO LEFT ON A JOURNEY, BUT WE WANT HIM TO FEEL WELCOME WHENEVER HE RETURNS...
...SO WE'RE TAKING TURNS CLEANING HIS ROOM.
ROSE-SAN SAYS ALWAYS CLEAN FROM THE TOP DOWN

*DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO TIE A TIE

COMING UP NEXT
Season 2

TRANSLATION NOTES

COMMON HONORIFICS

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

-senpai: A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.

PAGE 44

Here, Soichiro explains a printing error in the original magazine publication. The kanji shown in the third panel (in his own rough handwriting) is correct, "eagle," but what ended up getting printed in the magazine was the very similar kanji for "hawk," shown in the second panel.

PAGE 157

Cyrus's line refers to a real mountain in Taiwan called "Niitakayama" (or "new high mountain") by the Japanese. But the line itself is a reference to the infamous secret code—"*Niitakayama Nobore*" ("Climb the new high mountain")—that signaled the Japanese carrier fleet to begin its attack on Pearl Harbor.

PAGE 195

The weaver girl and the cowherd refers to love story between Vega and Altair, the stars central to the Chinese Qixi Festival—which in turn inspired Japan's Tanabata Festival. Vega and Altair were heavenly star-crossed lovers separated by the Milky Way, allowed to meet only once a year on the seventh day of the seventh month.

PAGE 228
Note that the Japanese pronunciation of "Miguel" (Migeru) contains the same "*-geru*" as the character's Japanese name, revealed in this volume as Shigeru. Similarly, we have Keireiji becoming Caleb (Keirebu), Saimura becoming Cyrus (Sairasu), Sumiko becoming Stella (Sutera), Kurosaki becoming Claudia (Kuroodia), Amamiya becoming Amanda, and so on. Rose and Leo's chosen English names operate on meaning rather than phonetics, as the "*bara*" in Rose's last name, Haibara, actually means "rose," and the "*shishi*" in Shishigami means "lion."

PAGE 243
Stella's "Gendo" pose is a reference to Gendo Ikari of Hideaki Anno's *Neon Genesis Evangelion*. The character is known for tenting his fingers in front of his mouth in that manner—so much so that the pose is colloquially referred to by his name.

ROSE GUNS DAYS SEASON 1 ④

RYUKISHI07
Soichiro

Translation: Caleb D. Cook • Lettering: Katie Blakeslee and Lys Blakeslee

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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